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## Women's soccer league hits the field

World of Sport

# Ben-Elissar returns home to fight for job

By HILLEL KUTTLER, MICHAL YUDELMAN, and agencies

Ambassador to the US Elisha Ben-Elissar returned to Israel last night to fight for his job, amid persistent rumors that he might be replaced.

During the 24-hour visit, Ben-Elissar is to meet with both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy to discuss the matter.

"He knows there's someone in the Prime Minister's Office who does not want him to be the ambassador," an embassy official said yesterday, adding that Ben-Elissar

takes the reports seriously.

The latest speculation from Jerusalem is that Netanyahu's chief foreign policy adviser Dore Gold is angling for the job, and is the one who has leaked the rumors.

During a briefing for reporters in Washington on Friday, Levy, with Ben-Elissar sitting nearby, refused to address questions about the controversy. But in subsequent discussions between the two, Levy agreed that Ben-Elissar should make the trip to Jerusalem now.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu said that the US is interested in aiding the peace process and Israel welcomes its assistance. Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak,

said the US has no intention of withdrawing from its mediation in the peace process.

These statements were apparently a response to Ambassador Martin Indyk's comment that the Oslo process has fallen apart and it is impossible to make quick repairs to it.

Indyk said the US cannot rebuild the confidence which has been violated between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Netanyahu met yesterday with Indyk after talks with Michigan Governor John Engler.

"The core bargain of Oslo has broken down. Israel is promised security; the

Palestinians were promised self-government and a credible pathway to negotiating their rights in a final status agreement."

Indyk told the US-Israel Chamber of Commerce on Sunday. "Terrorism on the one side and unilateral acts which have created the impression that the final status issues are being preempted on the other have combined to break this trust."

Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry director-general under the previous government and one of the initiators of the Oslo agreement, warned that if the Oslo agreement breaks down, the peace process in the entire region will collapse. He said the peace process can still be saved, if Israel takes

initiative into its own hands and returns to cooperation with the Palestinians.

"But cooperation cannot be done by dictates, such as Har Homa and tunnels, and without full cooperation in all fields, Oslo will not advance," he said.

Former ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich said the peace process is collapsing, and Israel is losing its preferred position with the US administration. He noted that Israel is no longer on the top of the administration's priority list and the US might reduce its involvement in the region.

Commenting on Indyk's statement that the two enemies of the peace process are Palestinian terrorism and Israel's unilateral

steps, Savir said that in the past both the Americans and the governments of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres regarded terrorism as a common enemy. "Now for the first time the Americans are placing us as parallel in the blame for terrorism. This is an extremely severe statement which should not be taken lightly. "Israel must start working on reinstating the talks and the government must invest day and night, as the previous one did, in sitting with the Palestinians. There is no other partner, and the alternative is much worse."

See BEN-ELISSAR, Page 2

## British documents indicate:

# 7 million died in Holocaust

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The number of Jews killed in the Holocaust might have been closer to seven million than six million, according to previously classified World War II intelligence documents released by Britain's Public Record Office yesterday.

The documents, which indicate

was apparently done by the Allies to limit the genocide.

Most of the executions were carried out by German police units, known as Ordnungspolizei, or "Orpo," in conjunction with the SS.

The Germans clearly feared that the messages might be intercepted and executions were therefore classified under the euphemisms, "Cleansing Operations" and "Action According to the Usage of War." The decoded messages showed that victims were described as Jews, Jewish plunderers, Jewish Bolsheviks and Russians soldiers.

According to the messages, hundreds of thousands of Jews were rounded up and systematically slaughtered in the months following the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

The British intelligence branch responsible for intercepting wartime German messages has already released a large number of documents, the existence of which were revealed only in the early 1980s, but intercepted messages of the Ordnungspolizei have been retained until now.

It is believed a decision was taken to release them because copies of some documents were unclassified by the US last year, provoking charges of a British coverup.

Evidence of the scale of the Holocaust is contained in an appendix of "British Intelligence in the Second World War," the official war history by Professor Sir Harry Hinsley and three co-authors.

According to Hinsley, the British code-breaking teams reported references to Dachau, Buchenwald, Auschwitz and seven other concentration camps from the spring of 1942 to February 1943.

## Jewish groups slam restitution law, Page 3

that the Holocaust started much earlier than previously believed, are based on German messages that were intercepted and deciphered at the top-secret British wartime code-breaking facility at Bletchley Park.

The decoding was performed by a machine known as Ultra, whose existence was itself classified until relatively recently. Intelligence produced by the machine is believed to have shortened the length of the war by up to three years.

The documents released yesterday provide details of the extermination of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews as early as June 1941, several months before the "Final Solution" is generally believed to have been implemented.

The documents provide horrifying early detail of the systematic campaign to destroy European Jewry and are expected to reopen the debate over when the Allied leaders first learned about the destruction of European Jewry. The documents are also liable to again raise questions about why so little



Crew members of the Dvora-class patrol boat pose yesterday in Haifa after their successful mission off Lebanon. (IOP Spokesman)

# Suicide attack on boat fails

By DAVID RUDGE

A suicide bomber's attempt to destroy an Israeli Navy gunboat off the coast of south Lebanon failed yesterday morning, apparently when the attacker detonated his explosives-laden boat prematurely.

## PM blames PA for stalemate, Page 2

There were no casualties among the crew of the Dvora-class patrol boat in the incident, for which the Amal Shi'ite movement claimed responsibility.

Initially it was reported that the navy crewmen had spotted a Lebanese fishing boat coming toward them and opened fire after it failed to heed warning signals. The boat exploded and sank.

Subsequent reports, however, indicated that the incident was an attempted suicide attack, whose perpetrator blew up his fishing boat prematurely, after the crew of the patrol boat began to take precautionary measures, but before they opened fire.

The Dvora class is used for coastal patrol work, because of its speed and maneuverability, which give it excellent interception capa-

bilities, while enabling it to take quick evasive action if necessary.

The gunboat was on routine patrol some two kilometers off the Lebanese coast at about 5:30 a.m., when the crew spotted the fishing boat with one person aboard.

In accordance with standing orders, they signalled the boat to stop, but it kept on coming. The gunboat reportedly approached to within a safe distance of the fishing vessel, at which point the suicide bomber apparently blew himself up.

There was no damage to the gunboat or the crew, despite Amal's claim that it was destroyed. Lebanese television stations last night screened a video film purportedly showing the explosion.

According to some reports, the fishing boat was loaded with up to 100 kg of explosives and it blew up about 500 meters from the patrol boat.

The IDF Spokesman announced last night that an inquiry into the action had been completed and that OC Navy Adm. Alex Tal praised the alertness and actions of the patrol boat's crew.

It was not clear initially whether the fishing boat had intended to infiltrate Israeli waters and carry out an attack here, or whether the aim from the outset had been to try to blow up a patrol boat.

See BOAT, Page 2

## Mother strangles daughter, hangs self

By RAINE MARCUS

A mother of six apparently killed her autistic daughter and then hanged herself in the stairwell of the family's Bat Yam home yesterday.

A neighbor found the body of Almalito Mahari, 53, in the stairwell of the Rehov Dalia building at around 6 a.m. She hanged on the floor of the family's apartment and woke the occupants, one of whom found the body of 11-year-old Ruth Mahari lying in her mother's bedroom, a piece of cloth tied around her neck.

Police and Magen David Adom personnel were summoned to the Amidar quarter apartment and an MDA doctor pronounced mother and daughter dead. A police pathologist estimated the apparent murder and suicide took place at around 4 a.m.

Relatives blamed the municipal social services department for threatening to take Ruth away from

her mother, because they said she could not cope with her daughter's problems.

"They [the social services] wanted to take Ruth away from us," said family member Yael.

But this was denied by social services representative Rachel Vidal, who told Army Radio yesterday there were no plans to remove the autistic child from her home.

"There was no reason for the family to think such things, and we had no such plans," said Vidal. "It's true that the mother had difficulties with her - she had to look after her 24 hours a day because of her special needs."

"We helped the family - not just with the child, but with other things, too - because the mother did not speak Hebrew well, since the family immigrated from Ethiopia and had difficulty adjusting."

But, added Vidal, there were no signs of distress from the family that would warrant taking Ruth from her mother.

Neighbors said that although they knew the mother was unemployed and had financial problems, there was no indication she was distressed or was about to do something drastic. Police are investigating.

## BACKGROUND

# Defeating the enemy at sea

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israel's enemies have tried everything from speed boats and water scooters, to kayaks, frogmen and now explosives-laden fishing craft to break through the iron curtain the Israel Navy has drawn across the northern coast, but it has been nearly seven years since they have succeeded.

One of the main factors is the speedy Dvora-class gunboats, which keep a 24-hour vigil along the

coast. The Dvora is capable of reaching 40 knots, and is equipped with depth charges, torpedoes, and advanced radar. Some are being fitted with a remote-controlled deck cannon system, called Typhoon, which is capable of locking onto targets, day or night, in all weather conditions.

Yesterday's attempted attack by Amal was the first in three years. On July 11, 1994, a pair of terrorists tried to swim to the northern coast. They were detected at night on radar

by a patrolling Dvora gunship and killed. It was not known to which group the two belonged; it was the sixth such attempt since 1987.

One of the most spectacular attempted infiltrations occurred on October 9, 1993, when a terrorist of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine tried to run the navy's gauntlet on a water scooter. He was cut down by patrol boat just north of Rosh Hanikra.

See DEFEATING, Page 2

## Soccer star Ronnen Harazi arrested on tax evasion charges

By RAINE MARCUS and ORI LEWIS

Israel and Betar Jerusalem soccer star Ronnen Harazi was arrested on suspicion of tax evasion and then released on bail by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. Harazi denied the allegations.

Harazi is suspected of defrauding income tax authorities out of hundreds of thousands of shekels in

1993-1995. According to tax investigators, Harazi failed to declare bonuses he received from Betar, the new National League champions, and is alleged also to have purchased an apartment in Jerusalem with money owed to the taxman.

He also allegedly failed to declare that Betar rented an apartment and a car for him.

Betar also allegedly financed his

wedding and bought him a car, without Harazi declaring this to tax authorities, who said the investigation is still in its early stages and that other arrests can be expected.

Harazi was released on a personal bond of NIS 1 million and a NIS 200,000 bank guarantee. He was also banned from leaving the country for the next 180 days.

See HARAZI, Page 2

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# PM: Palestinians are to blame for impasse

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday blamed the Palestinians for the stalemate in the peace process, saying they are flagrantly violating the Oslo Accords and trying to deliberately deepen the crisis in the belief it will serve their interests.

He repeated this message before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in the morning, in his opening address to the Knesset plenum in the afternoon, at the start of the summer session, and in talks with reporters.

He said the government would act to renew the talks with Syria, but would not accept dictates. It would also act to strengthen the peace with Jordan and Egypt, Netanyahu said.

"I think the US is a welcome partner in the quest for peace, and I think it has been and always will be extremely valuable. As far as the US position that it's up to the parties to resolve the issues, they're absolutely right," he said.

"If there is no forthcoming [move] on the part of the Palestinians to keep the agreement - that is to fight terrorism and to follow through on the other conditions of Oslo - it will be very hard to proceed."

"We have kept the provisions in Hebron, in the release of women prisoners, in the transfer of funds, and other provisions that we have adhered to scrupulously, even though they were very difficult for us. At the same time, we didn't see such a concomitant fulfillment of the agreement."

"The Palestinian Authority has not rescinded the Palestinian Charter calling for our destruction. It has not fought terrorism. It has not stopped the incitement against Israel. It has not done all these and other things. And we expect both sides to do what we're doing, that is to fulfill agreements. I think this is the

best prescription for restoring trust and getting the process [going]," he said.

On the murder of the two land dealers, Netanyahu told reporters: "I think this is a horrible development. I think it is ghastly - monstrous - to issue a law which says anyone who sells land to Jews should be executed. [Imagine] what would happen if Israel passed a law saying that anyone who sells land to Arabs will be executed. This would be immediately and universally condemned as a racist law, a Nazi law, a Nuremberg law. And rightly so."

"It is unacceptable wherever it comes from. But what is worse is not only that these laws are propagated, but that they appear to be followed through, as [shown] in the recent murder of two innocent people apparently at the hand of the Palestinian Authority. It's absolutely unacceptable, unacceptable in human terms, unacceptable in peace terms, and we insist this practice be stopped and immediately."

Netanyahu dismissed suggestions that Israel stop building over the Green Line, saying sarcastically: "I can't believe somebody would seriously suggest stopping building in the communities. Will building be stopped in Kalkilya? Ramallah? Jein? If I proposed stopping building in Ramallah, would it be accepted? Of course not. So to suggest it in relation to Ariel, Beit El, or Shilo is unreasonable."

According to an official briefing, Netanyahu told the committee the peace process has stopped since the Tel Aviv cafe bombing in March and the failed attacks in Gush Katif. He warned of a "strong response" if terror acts are resumed.

In both the plenum and the committee meeting, he said the Palestinians are beginning to realize that his government will not give in to their demands if they do not abide by the Oslo

Accords.

He said the Palestinians are interested not only in sustaining the crisis, but also in deepening it through terror, playing on the domestic divisions in Israel to create more pressure on the government, and in the international arena.

But Netanyahu also said that sooner or later there would be progress in the process because the Palestinians would understand there is no alternative to direct talks. He repeated his preference for proceeding directly to final status talks, while stressing Israel will stand firm on not returning to the 1967 borders, maintaining essential security zones, and preserving the holy sites.

On Lebanon, he told the committee there are signs that the Syrians have been restricting Hizbullah, but he could not say this is a signal of their serious intent to resume the peace process.

Netanyahu's plenum address called for unity, but attacked the opposition. "I suggest you turn just some of your barbed criticism towards the PA, so as not to give it the false illusion that it is exempt from making an effort... and only the Israeli government is responsible for carrying the weight of the fate of the peace process... Automatically mobilizing against the government and automatically standing behind the Palestinians only helps retard the peace process."

Labor leader Shimon Peres returned fire: "There is no stalemate, there is a dynamic deterioration."

He said there is only a process of argument both at home and abroad: "Argument, dispute, hatred, division, and a lack of hope. How dare you stand here in the plenum and sing a serenade to unity? You tell us we stand behind the PA. We stand behind our children. We don't want war. That's the side we're on."

## Netanyahu blasts call by Kahalani for Lebanon pullout

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday rejected a call by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (Third Way) for a unilateral IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon, saying it would bring terror back to the communities along the northern border.

Netanyahu, who was speaking to reporters after the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, recalled that the Hizbullah secretary-general said the problem isn't Lebanon, but every inch of Palestine. "Therefore we could find ourselves with direct firing on the North," he said.

However, MK Yossi Beilin, who is competing for the Labor Party leadership, praised Kahalani's courage "for saying what other members of the coalition are thinking." He said the soldiers' pres-

ence in Lebanon is "foolish and no longer effective" and building a fence and deploying IDF soldiers south of it would secure the North if the government decides to pull out of Lebanon either with- in the framework of a formal arrangement or by an understanding.

Ephraim Sneh, another candidate for the Labor leadership and a former IDF commander in south Lebanon, called Beilin's stand "defeatist, irresponsible and impractical."

During the Labor faction meeting in the Knesset, an argument broke out between Beilin and Sneh over Beilin's intention to submit a bill calling for a unilateral pullback. "Hizbullah will enter the vacuum that would be created as a result of the IDF's leaving," said Sneh. "And then the IDF will be forced to return in greater force at a cost of much more bloodshed."

## DEFEATING

Continued from Page 1

Three years earlier, in June 1990, a small fleet of Dvora-class gunships spent three days tracking down a speedboat trying to break past them into Israel. The terrorist boat was intercepted and sunk; the attackers killed.

That attack came just one month after the dramatic failure by the

navy to stop two terrorist speedboats from landing at Nitzanim and Ga'ash beaches on Shavuot. They were part of an attempt by Abu Abbas's Palestine Liberation Front to send six boats containing 16 terrorists to carry out an attack on Tel Aviv. While the two boats succeeded in reaching the coast, they were pinned down by helicopter and land forces, which killed four and captured the rest. That attack led to the break in dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

In April 1988, a Dvora sunk a rubber dinghy that was trying to ram it and in February of that year two terrorists trying to sneak into Israel in a kayak were spotted and killed.

In December 1987, Palestinian terrorists attacked a Dvora off the coast of Sidon, shooting RPGs and automatic weapons at the boat. Ensign Amit Sela was killed in the clash, as were all four terrorists.

In February 1987, the navy intercepted a ship named *Mario Air* and captured 50 terrorists making their way to Lebanon.

In April 1979, four terrorists landed and attacked an apartment house, killing a father and his two daughters and a policeman.

It has been nearly 20 years since the infamous Coastal Road massacre of March 1978, in which 11 Palestinian terrorists landed by sea and commandeered a bus. It was eventually stormed by troops in a botched rescue operation that left 21 Israelis dead, as well as all of the terrorists.

Three years prior to this attack, Fatah terrorists landed in dinghies launched from a freighter off Tel Aviv and killed eight Israelis and three soldiers during a hostage-taking attempt at the Savoy Hotel.

## ARRIVALS

Arrivals for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University. From Brazil: Amanda & Henry Sobel, Miriam Tawil. From The United States: Dr. Malia & Dr. Aron A. Moscona, Rena & Norman Shultz.

ROBERT H. AND Joan Amow, Dr. Thomas E.J. de Wit and Margaret E. Ward, U.S.A. for the 27th Board of Governors meeting of Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

## CORRECTION

Zvi Ben-Ari was remanded yesterday for 10 days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court on suspicion of murder and conspiracy to commit murder, and not as reported yesterday.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres addressing the Knesset yesterday.



(Brian Hessler)

## Yossi Olmert: PM has a severe credibility problem

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Dr. Yossi Olmert yesterday slammed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, whom he said promised him the post of ambassador to the United Nations, for breaking his promise. He said the prime minister has "a definite and ongoing credibility problem."

Olmert, who had accused Netanyahu of reneging on his promise on Channel 2 last Friday, was licensed yesterday by a comment from the Prime Minister's Office that, after his attack on Netanyahu, he had lost his chance at the job.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office were quoted in yesterday's *Yedioth Aharanot* as saying that Netanyahu spoke to Olmert about the possibility of appointing him to the UN, but the issue was not finalized. The sources said Netanyahu was furious with Olmert following his TV interview, and his chances of being

appointed now are nearly zero.

Olmert told Israel Radio the Prime Minister's Office comment was "so absurd that it insults the intelligence." He stressed that he had only talked to Channel 2 after it was made clear to him that Netanyahu had decided on someone else for the UN post, and that diplomatic reporters were advised of this 10 days ago.

"If Netanyahu wanted to appoint me, why hadn't he done so over the past nine months?" Olmert said. "Instead, he appoints someone else. Which indicates his lack of credibility. This problem keeps recurring in the form of broken promises, not only to me but to many other people, mainly about appointments, and we will hear of many more such cases in the future."

He also said that "this is a built-in problem, not some personal whim. It's not the hostile media or left-wingers saying these things, but me, Olmert, a Likudnik, elected to the Likud's

Knesset list. A promise to me was broken."

Olmert said Netanyahu promised him the post in August, after explaining to him its significance and hinting "look where the man who once sat in that seat is today." He noted the promise was explicit and clear, subject only to the agreement of Foreign Minister David Levy, which was given in December.

He noted he was to be interviewed by Channel 2 the previous Friday, but the Netanyahu's people asked him that afternoon to refrain from doing so.

"Everything is all right [with your appointment], they said. 'There's no problem. You'll be hearing from us immediately.' This was after the briefing [to the reporters about another man being appointed]," Olmert said. "I didn't hear anything from them, and that's why I said what I said. As far as I'm concerned, the UN issue is buried."

Olmert, who narrowly missed

getting into the Knesset due to the Likud's agreements with Gesher and Tsomet, said that he got onto the Knesset list even though the party apparatus was working against him. After that he was intensively active in the election campaign.

"But it seems that if you're not 1000 percent identified with Netanyahu, you're considered 1000% against him, which limits the choice of candidates for senior positions to a minimum," he said.

He added that while he is not angry, "there is also a human aspect. One has a family, a wife, daughters, and for a whole year you're waiting to hear whether you're moving [to the US]. They keep telling you one more week, and one more week, and then they renege on the promise."

Olmert said the affair of the UN ambassador is not over, and said he would "tell all, in detail," once the other man's appointment is official.

## BOAT

Continued from Page 1

Amal, in its statement, said the attack had been carried out by one of its martyrs in retaliation for Israel's ongoing blockade of south Lebanese ports, which prevents fishermen from earning their livelihoods, as well as breaches of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

Amal, a moderate and secular rival of Hizbullah, has been relatively inactive lately. Suicide operations by Amal are considered unusual, especially a sea-borne attempt.

Nevertheless, the navy has recently increased patrols off the Lebanese coast, following reports that terrorist organizations have acquired various craft in the past few years.

The last sea-borne infiltration attempt, using a water scooter, was in 1993. The attempt was thwarted. Military sources believe other attempts may be mounted, despite the navy's efforts to seal off the coast, and that the possibility of future attacks against patrol boats cannot be ruled out.

Reports from Lebanon said the incident occurred off Mansouri, northwest of Nakura, and that afterward Israel Navy gunboats detained a number of local fishermen.

There were also reports of a roadside bomb exploding harmlessly on the coastal road between Mansouri and Tyre. Hizbullah issued a statement accusing Israel of planting the bombs.

Hizbullah, meanwhile, claimed responsibility for a mortar attack against IDF troops on patrol in the western sector of the security zone yesterday afternoon. There were no casualties.

## HARAZI

Continued from Page 1

This could cause problems for the national team, as Harazi was due to play in the World Cup qualifying match with Russia in Moscow on June 8. The team is due to leave on June 4 and if the tax authorities do not relent, Harazi will not be able to join his teammates.

Betar chairman Moshe Dadash was questioned yesterday, and the tax authorities have announced that other Betar officials and players may be called in for questioning.

Harazi told Channel 1's *Mabat* news last night that the whole matter is a big misunderstanding and that Betar Jerusalem is responsible for paying his taxes.

"They have to pay the tax bill... and I expect the club to stand behind me in these difficult hours," he said. "I passed on all the papers to my accountant and let him deal with these matters."

Betar manager Avraham Levy admitted earlier to Israel Radio that Harazi's contract does make the club responsible for paying his tax bill, although he suggested that Harazi may not have filled in all the paperwork.

"Betar and Harazi have a contract and we will pay every shekel which is owed to the income tax authorities. Harazi can rest assured he will not suffer at all," Levy said.

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## BEN-ELISSAR

Continued from Page 1

In an interview with Israel Radio, Rabinovich said the Americans are demonstrating their dissatisfaction with the situation and with Israel in every possible way, from the treatment of the "Mega" affair to meetings with Israeli leaders, which are

no longer automatic. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat blamed what he called the lack of American pressure on Israel for the breakdown in the peace process.

Asked to comment on Indyk's remark that the "core bargain" of Oslo had broken down, Arafat told reporters in Gaza: "Because there is no American pressure to save the

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### Our beloved EDITH FRIEDMAN

widow of Abraham Shlomo (Adolf) Friedman

passed away on Sunday, May 18.

Shiva at the Bernkopf residence,

10/16 Rehov Moshe Sneh, Lev HaPark, Ra'anana.

Mourning by her children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

### MINNIE GALGUT

passed away on May 19 after a long illness bravely borne.

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, May 20,

at 2 p.m. at Ra'anana cemetery.

Deeply mourned by her loving:

Brother and sister-in-law, Morris and Ruth  
Nieces and nephews, Janice, Anthony,  
Yair and Orna  
Great nephews and nieces, Alon, Shaked, Gili,  
Bar and Roni

### ברוך דיין האמת

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of my dear

husband, our father and grandfather

ALTER YA'AKOV (Alfred)

ben Mordechai LANDGARTEN 77

The funeral took place Sunday night, May 18.

Mourning by:

His wife, Sarah  
Son, Aaron Landgarten  
Daughter, Anne (Hana) Magori  
Grandchildren, Rami, Ido, Aviva, Elisheva and Avigal Magori  
Shiva at Nofei Yerushalayim, Bayit Vagan, 59 Rehov Uziel, Room 426.  
Buses 21, 21a, Tel. 02-675-1426.

# WJRO report critical of Polish restitution law

By DAVID HARRIS

The recently passed Polish law on Jewish communal property seized during the Holocaust "legitimizes, facilitates, and sustains the great Nazi plunder of Jewish public property," according to a confidential report sent to the Polish government by the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) and the World Federation of Polish Jews (WFPJ).

The act, ratified by the president three weeks ago, aims to regulate the legal standing of Jewish communities in the country.

Last night, a senior figure in the Polish Jewish community said he was disturbed by the attitude of the WJRO and called for cooperation rather than disharmony.

Despite four years of negotiations with a government that has changed three times, the WJRO and WFPJ believe the act serves to obstruct rather than aid restitution, according to WJRO vice chairman Naphtali Lavie.

The report, which analyzes the act section by section, was written by lawyer Arye Edelist, former Supreme Court justice Moshe Bejski, and retired

District Court president judge Moshe Nacht, all of whom are of Polish origin.

The document, sent to Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, and Interior Minister Leszek Miller, itemizes the clauses that its authors think effectively prevent world Jewry from staking a claim to the property:

- The act only grants title to properties currently in their possession. This grants the remaining nine Jewish communities from a pre-war 1,500 rights of ownership of a tiny fraction of Jewish property.
- The act deals with real estate, not movable property or other rights.
- The act prevents claims on property now in the hands of third parties, in other words not held by the government. This provision practically precludes all restitution.
- The act fails to grant any substantive ownership rights to Jewish communal and public property.
- The act forbids the expropriation of cemeteries.
- The act appears to grant legal status to the WJRO and others

through the creation of a Polish foundation to deal with the issue, but grants no rights to the foundation.

The WJRO believes it is wrong that the nine surviving communities, 1,460 people, be allowed to stake claims to the communal property of 1,500 communities or 3,500,000 pre-war Jews.

However, that argument was rejected by Stanislaw Krajewski, a member of the board of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland. "Are you suggesting the WJRO has a stronger claim to the property than we do?" he asked. "We are very unhappy that they are trying to ignore the community."

Krajewski also pointed out that in a unique move in Eastern Europe, the Polish government included the WJRO by name in the legislation. "The WJRO is an important partner," he said. "But the three, including the Jewish community [and the government], must work together."

No one was available for comment at the Polish Embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday. However, writing in *The Jerusalem Post* a month ago, embassy press counselor Zbigniew Szumielewicz defended his government's actions.

"It is not true that the legislation would compensate only a minuscule remnant of Polish Jewry in only nine Polish cities. Firstly, it is not a law dealing with compensation but with restitution of property of religious communities only. Secondly, the law enables proper organizations and institutions to set up a foundation which will be legally authorized to take care of the property. Both WJRO and the World Federation of Polish Jews may become partners in the foundation provided it is deemed appropriate."

"It is also untrue that the legislation takes into account only nine cities in Poland where contemporary Jewish religious communities have been established. Activities of the foundation will cover the whole territory of Poland, with the hope that it will support active people willing to contribute to the communities of Bialystok, Lublin, etc."

"However, implementation of the law depends on both sides, on understanding the essence of friendly Polish-Jewish relations, of using the language of cooperation and dialogue which has been the aim of the Polish legislators."



New find at Tel Hazor

A life-size statue of a lion from around the 15th century BCE was found Sunday at Tel Hazor by a team headed by Hebrew University's Prof. Amnon Ben-Tor. The one-ton basalt sculpture is identical to one found at the site 40 years ago by Yigael Yadin and may have decorated the entrance to a Canaanite temple.

## Claims on Polish accounts in Swiss banks must be addressed to Warsaw

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Individuals who want to pursue claims against the Polish government regarding dormant accounts in Swiss banks that belonged to Holocaust victims are now being asked to apply to Warsaw directly rather than to the Polish Embassy here.

On April 7, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Polish government had agreed to return funds from dormant Jewish accounts in Swiss banks which had belonged to Polish citizens who died in the

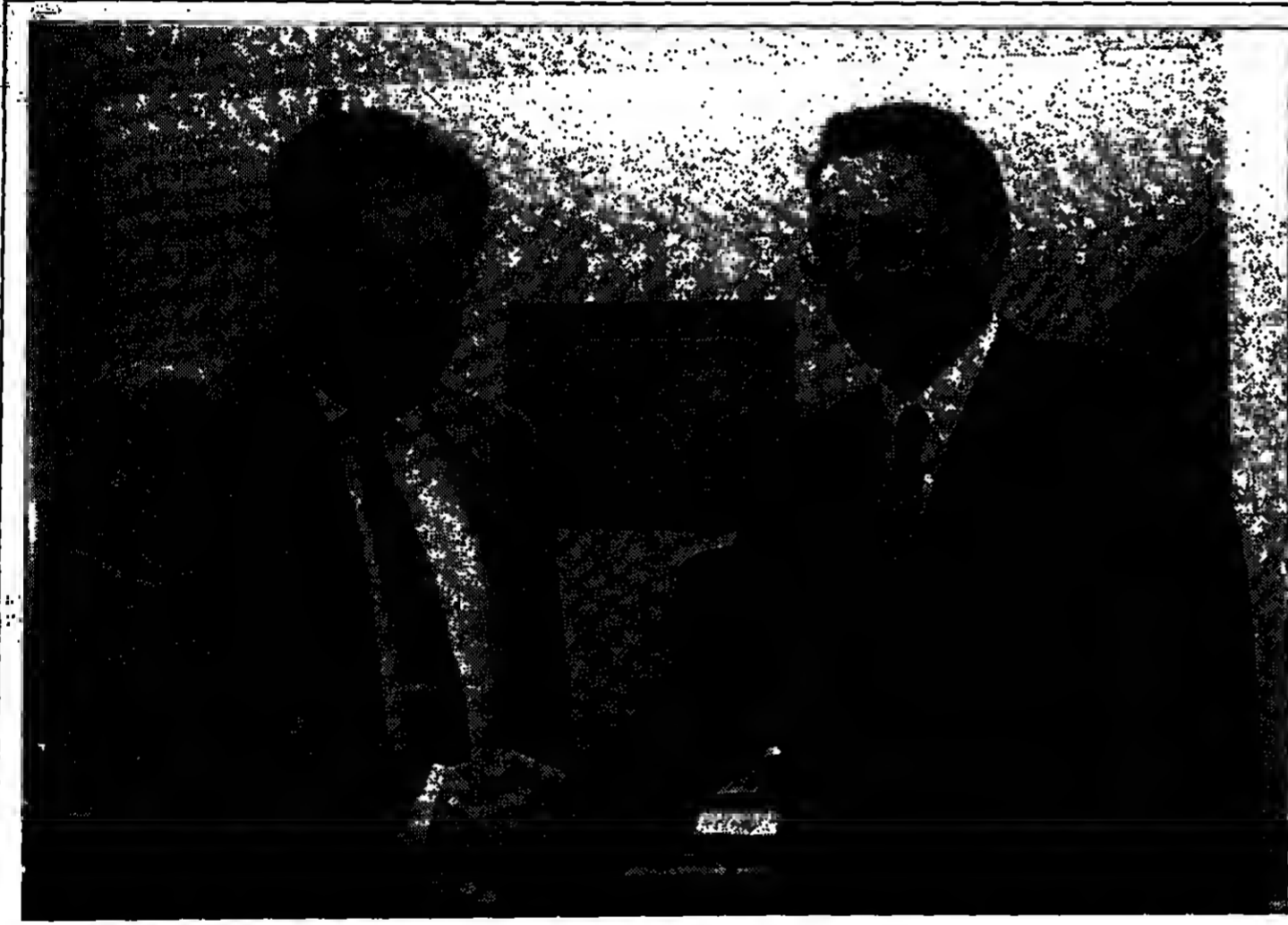
Holocaust, attributing the information to the Polish Embassy in the US.

Based on published accounts, 53 Poles had such accounts in Swiss banks in 1939. The article included a list of those holding such accounts, and instructions saying inquiries should be sent to the Polish Embassy in Tel Aviv.

However, one applicant sent the *Post* a copy of a letter he received from Karol Drozd, Counselor and Minister Plenipotentiary in the Polish Embassy. The letter, dated

May 7, said that the consular section of the embassy had informed him that "all inquiries concerning dormant Jewish accounts in Swiss banks that belonged to people listed in the article published by *The Jerusalem Post* on April 7 1997, should be sent to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Poland."

Drozd then provided the address: Mr. Jan Ciszewski, Director of the International Cooperation & European Law Department, Ministry of Justice, Al. Ujazdowskie 11, 00-950, Warsaw.



New envoy arrives

Incoming Russian Ambassador Mikhail Bogdanov (right) is welcomed to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday by Director-General Eytan Bentsur.

### AT THE KNESSET

## PM mum on Ne'eman

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday that former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman had informed him he is taking a vacation and any decision regarding his return to the government would be taken after that. Netanyahu said he refuses "to deal in speculation" on the subject. He also noted there are still High Court appeals pending which could affect the decision. Netanyahu met yesterday with Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, but details of their discussion were not disclosed.

fought the Nazis in World War II. At the opening of the summer session, Speaker Dan Tichon praised the fighters as representatives sat in the visitors' gallery. The idea of marking the veteran's contribution was the initiative of Yur' Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya).

MKS, staffers get lung tests

As part of its ongoing efforts to get MKs to quit smoking, the Knesset held a marathon campaign testing the lungs of 142 parliamentarians, their aides, and other Knesset staff. The campaign, the initiative of Knesset physician Dr. Yitzhak Lipshtiz, was held in conjunction with Beilinson Hospital's lung unit.

Levy warns of welfare problems

Maxim Levy (Gesher), chairman of the Labor and Social Affairs Committee, warned yesterday that the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry is finding it difficult to cope with welfare problems around the country. Ministry Director-General Yigael Ben-Shalom and Levy agreed to continue community services for the elderly despite the severe budget deficit.

Survivors may deposit reparations abroad

The Bank of Israel has agreed to allow Holocaust survivors who receive compensation from Germany to deposit the money in foreign banks because of the low interest in local banks. The proposal came from Abraham Herschson (Likud), who chairs the Knesset sub-committee on restitution of Jewish property.

World war II veterans cited

The Knesset paid tribute to the Jewish veterans who

## Health Ministry to study problem of drug sales on Internet

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry will put the subject of uncontrolled and dangerous sales of prescription medications via the Internet on the agenda of its new Internet steering committee.

Ministry deputy director-general for information and international affairs Yair Amikam agreed to do this after receiving queries from *The Jerusalem Post* about the potential of the global computer system for bringing in medications without supervision.

Amikam said the ministry's decision to establish an Internet steering committee was made last week by associate director-general Dr. Boaz Levy, with the intention of disseminating ministry information on health to the general public via the Internet.

The World Health Organization's annual general assembly, which met in Geneva over the past two weeks, passed a resolution last Monday urging a global fight against the sale of drugs via the Internet. Amikam was a member of the ministry's delegation, but he said it was impossible for him to attend all committee and plenary sessions at the massive gathering, thus he was unaware of this specific issue.

The WHO said in a statement that it fears the Internet could become a medium for the promotion and sales of unauthorized drugs, leading to consumer misuse, abuse, and public health risks. It called on member states to boost cooperation among pharmaceutical companies, police authorities, and the business community to control on-line sales of medications.

The WHO's director of drug safety, Martijn ten Ham, said in Geneva that his office had found four companies selling prescription drugs over the Internet without providing detailed information. Among them were drugs for acne that can cause birth defects if pregnant women take them, toxic chemotherapy drugs, and "morning-after pills" for causing abortions after unprotected sex.

Some Israelis have claimed they ordered via the Internet melatonin and DHEA, two hormones which are widely consumed without a prescription in the US despite concerns about long-term health risks. The first can be sold only by prescription here, and marketing the second is prohibited.

Ten Ham, a Dutch physician, said quality assurance of drugs sold over the Internet is not guaranteed, and that there is a risk that useless

counterfeit medicines could be sold. Even narcotics could be sold in this way, he warned.

However, since laws and regulations differ from country to country and the Internet is impossible to monitor, dealing with the problem is very difficult.

Howard Reiss, head of the Israel Pharmacists Association, said such illicit purchases are "not yet a major problem here, but are likely to be. It's high time that the government examines the matter to prevent future abuse, instead of just putting out fires."

Reiss said his own pharmacy often imports medications by mail, and some are sent directly to him, unmarked, without the authorities asking questions. Although it's impossible to force pharmaceutical companies to declare mailed medications as drugs for customs examination, "they should confiscate all unmarked medication packages they find in sample examinations and inform the senders, in writing, that if they do this again, none of their goods will get through," Reiss added.

Customs Authority spokeswoman Idit Lev-Ezraha said it cannot examine every one of the thousands of packages that arrive from abroad each day.

## Freij resigns as Bethlehem mayor, PA tourism minister

By JON IMMANUEL

Elias Freij, mayor of Bethlehem since 1972 and minister of tourism in the Palestinian Authority since 1994, has resigned both positions, saying he is tired of his jobs and wants to spend time writing.

In a terse two-line resignation letter to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, Freij wrote, "I hereby hand in my resignation as mayor of Bethlehem and minister of tourism." He said Arafat has not yet responded, but the decision is already effective as far as he is concerned and he has not gone to work in his municipal office this week. He gave no explanation for his decision.

Freij, 80, was the only elected Palestinian mayor who was not

eventually deposed by the Israeli military authorities for pro-PLO leanings. He was also the only non-PLO mayor who remained in office after the PA took office.

He was considered pro-Jordan until the Oslo agreements and was a leading moderate who met frequently with both Labor and Likud leaders. When he counseled opening peace talks with Israel during the intifada, Arafat in Tunis threatened a "bullet in the chest" to anyone who undermined the exclusive authority of the PLO, a threat which was widely assumed to have been directed at Freij.

Freij said there were no political reasons for his resignation and retirement, and his appointment as minister in the PA indicated that he

had made his peace with Arafat. "I have been a member of the Bethlehem council since 1946 and I have been carrying many melons on my shoulders."

A large part of his role as Bethlehem's mayor involved exploiting his international contacts to encourage Christian tourism to the city. The two jobs were so closely linked that Freij decided to resign as minister as well.

He has been treated at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital during the past two years for a heart condition, but said health was not the reason for his resignation. "I am completely healthy," he said.

Freij's replacements in both jobs will be picked by Arafat.

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# Conversion classes for immigrants to be expanded

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

A new program designed to expand the existing network of conversion classes for new immigrants will soon be launched, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said yesterday.

Edelstein, reviewing his first year in office, said the new arrangement would lead to the creation of more conversion classes in areas where the immigrants live. A minimum of 20 immigrants are needed to start a class.

He said the agreement would also allow those completing such classes to be brought before rabbinic courts as quickly as possible, and would guarantee that the cost of the process would be limited to \$100, excluding books. Ethiopian immigrants would not have to pay the \$100.

Edelstein said he hopes that it would only take "weeks" for those completing the classes to appear before a rabbinic court. More rabbinic courts will be created if necessary, he said.

"In the past, immigrants were given the runaround before they were placed in a conversion class. I hope this will no longer happen," Edelstein said.

The plan was worked out between the Absorption Ministry, the Religious Affairs Ministry, the Education Ministry, the Chief Rabbinate, and the Jewish Agency. Each body will be responsible for its own part in the overall program, Edelstein said.

"There are tens of thousands of immigrants who need to undergo conversion. I estimate that thou-

sands will choose this path in the very near future," Edelstein said.

Asked how the immigrants, many of them non-observant, would comply with the demand by the rabbis that they maintain an observant lifestyle in order to convert, Edelstein said: "There is another side [in this matter] which I need to include; the only address I have in this country, which can solve this problem - the Chief Rabbinate.

"I sat with them, the director-general sat with them, officials in Yisrael Ba'aliya - [Natan] Sharansky and others - sat with them and presented the problems to them. We asked them if there is a way to solve them. At first they said no. Then we made progress and said yes, there is a way... I know they intend to solve the problem."

There are only several hundred immigrants currently waiting to undergo conversion, Edelstein said, but that is because of the difficulties they currently face in the conversion process and the lack of conversion classes available where they live.

"I believe there are thousands of immigrants who want to live here as Israelis in every way and Jews in every way, and I'm not just talking about mortgages - they get that in any case. But because there are younger people in the army, who then go into university and know this has consequences for their family lives, I'm sure there will be thousands interested."

On another subject, Edelstein said he hopes it will be only "a matter of months" until about 400 immigrant families from the CIS

who had apparently been bilked out of their money after entrusting it to individuals recommended to them by Israeli government bodies are compensated by the government.

Edelstein said that while he had "grand dreams" for what he could accomplish, "after a year here, I can't imagine what would've happened if Yisrael Ba'Aliya was not in the government."

He cited the ministry's success in finding housing solutions for elderly immigrants and for those who had previously lived in caravans. Only 85 out of 400 Ethiopian immigrant families who had been living in caravans a year ago are still living there, he noted. However, he said housing solutions still must be found for some 740 single Ethiopian immigrants still living in caravans, most after army service.

More immigrants are becoming entrepreneurs with the ministry's help, Edelstein noted, with 1,000 jobs created this way in the past year.

Immigration overall dropped 15 percent since he took office, partly because of the drop in the number of potential immigrants in the CIS, he said.

As for immigration from the West, ministry figures show 2,400 immigrants from North America and Oceania last year, compared to 2,700 in 1995, and 4,200 from Europe [excluding the former Soviet Union], compared to 4,100 the previous year.

Edelstein pointed out the ministry had particular success with a job fair aimed at attracting Israelis living in the US to return home, with some 1,000 expected to do so soon.



His honor is honored

Former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar secures his cap backstage at Tel Aviv's Habima theater before being awarded an honorary doctorate by Tel Aviv University, along with businessman Yuli Ofer (left) and others Sunday night.

[Han Ovedyev/Israel Sun]

Fourth in a series of five articles:

## Fire and brimstone in Bat Yam

By DAN IZENBERG

In his manual entitled *An Opening for Those Knocking at the Door of Teshuva*, author Yoel Schwartz suggests several ways to persuade secular Jews to become religious. These include gentle persuasion by gradually introducing candidates to mitzva observance; combining moral teaching with pleasurable experiences; holding introductory lectures on Judaism; arranging meetings with *hazim beshuva* - those who were not born into religious homes, but became observant later; and hosting potential *hazim beshuva* in yeshivot and *haredi* homes.

Such activities have become an integral part of the religious landscape; much of what is known as *kiruv* - activities aimed at bringing the non-observant closer to observance - is informal and done by "non-professionals," who forge personal relationships with secular individuals or families.

But there is no doubt that a crucial factor in the success of the *teshuva* movement lies in the charismatic personalities of its activists. Seventeen-year-old Shmulik Aviv has his mentor,

Rabbi Yehuda Bracha. Fifteen-year-old Herzl Fenso has his Rabbi Nadav. According to their mothers, Rina Aviv and Rachel Fenso, neither will do anything without first consulting them.

Charisma is also a key factor in the influence that neighborhood lectures, day-long seminars and evening "happenings" have on potential penitents. These events are an effective method of attracting new recruits, because they cast a wide net.

Everyone is welcome at these events - religious and secular, rich and poor, old and young, men and women. They are either free or entail a nominal entrance fee. They often include refreshments and entertainment, preferably by a one-time popular performer who has abandoned the secular world for the *haredi* one.

In the days before the event, the organizers plaster posters all over the neighborhood and distribute leaflets in mailboxes.

Those chosen to address the audience must excel at public speaking, for the speeches are a crucial part of the show. The organizers know that if the package they provide is entertaining enough, it will lure people from

their homes. Indeed, for many in the audience, this is the only live entertainment they can afford.

A four-day "revival" held recently in Bat Yam is typical of this type of outreach. It was sponsored by the Bat Yam Municipality's religious culture department and Arachim, one of the largest and most established *teshuva* organizations.

The event was held in the Rabbi Meir Ba'al Hanes Synagogue, a small Sephardi house of worship located in a lower-class neighborhood in the downtown area. The feature attraction was comedian Yehuda Barkan, who was scheduled to speak on Saturday night. But even on Thursday, some 450 people, split more or less evenly between men and women, crammed into the sanctuary and spilled over into an adjacent room to hear Rabbi Noah Hertz, a former pilot shot down and taken captive by Syria during the Yom Kippur War and Rabbi Ya'acov Ohayon, billed as a former hairdresser and television musician.

The event had some of the trappings of a country fair or a secular "happening." In the courtyard in front of the building, vendors set up stalls to peddle clothing or religious artifacts, including framed posters of Jewish holy men. Inside, two tables were stacked with religious books for sale.

Loudspeakers blared Oriental-Israeli music with religious themes at full volume, adding to the holiday atmosphere. It was a far cry from the cold and anonymous feeling on Bat Yam's main shopping street, a few hundred meters away.

Hertz, the former fighter pilot, had an incredible story to tell of his capture and eight-month captivity in Syria. An emotional high point, his voice would rise in pitch and he would appear to cry. At other times, he slowly repeated important or dramatic sentences and phrases, sometimes several times.

In the middle of his story, he would suddenly digress, extrapolating from the narrative to preach his idea of how a Jew should live.

He explained, for example, that in order to evade enemy radar, pilots were forced to fly at as great a speed and as low an altitude as possible. The maneuver was extremely dangerous, because the pilot could easily run into unexpected obstacles - a hill, a building, or a telephone pole. Hertz com-

pared these obstacles to the temptations luring one to bring down a man as he walks the straight and narrow path of righteousness.

In describing the moments after his plane was hit, Hertz dramatically raised his hand in the air and jerked it towards the table as he counted down from 10, explaining that he had 10 seconds to bail out before his plane hit the ground.

In the middle of his count, he stopped to explain that unlike that situation, in which he knew he had a given amount of time to do something to save himself, man does not know when he will die. Therefore, he must always take the proper steps to save his soul and ensure a heavenly reward.

Unlike Hertz, who used pathos as his rhetorical device, Ohayon's speech was laced with humor. His timing and wit were as effective as those of any stand-up comedian and he held his audience spellbound. But though delivered in a soft voice, his message was harsh.

Ohayon, whose topic was marital relations, said that only Jews were obliged to enter a state of holy matrimony because they belonged to the only nation sanctified by God. Non-Jews married only because they imitated Jews, not because they felt an inner need to sanctify coupling.

In another instance, he told a story about an Arab from Lod who climbed into a garbage bin and ate a watermelon he found inside. A Jew would never do such a thing because he is too genteel, Ohayon claimed.

On the other hand, though all Jews belong to the only holy nation on earth, secular Jews are a more dangerous enemy to the observant Jew than the greatest of antisemites, including Hitler, because they are hostile to religion, he said.

One of the most influential activists in the Tel Aviv area today is Rabbi Amnon Yitzhak, head of a Bnei Brak-based organization called Shofar. Yitzhak's speeches are a blend of humor and intimidation delivered in *sabak*, the language of the street.

In one of the dozens of tapes he has made for distribution, Yitzhak told the story of a man who tried to outsmart God by refusing to learn to read, so he would not be able to study Torah and could therefore not be blamed for not observing the commandments.

See TESHUVA, Page 5

## Justice Ministry bill to define journalists' immunity

The Justice Ministry has begun drafting legislation that will define the immunity of journalists and other professionals with regard to their sources.

The proposal will encompass the concept that journalists are entitled to relative immunity and will define under which circumstances this immunity can be lifted. It will attempt to standardize the concept of immunity on the basis suggested by the majority in the Maoz Committee appointed in 1993 to look into the subject.

At the same time, it will relate to the issue of curbing the existing immunity of lawyers. At present, lawyers' immunity cannot be lifted - unlike that of doctors or psychologists - unless a court orders this to

be done.

The proposal would make immunity of lawyers in civil cases also relative rather than absolute. Any material in a civil suit which was handed to a lawyer in anticipation of an upcoming trial, however, will continue to enjoy total immunity, according to the proposal.

Under the proposal, a senior magistrate will have the right to order the lifting of immunity also in criminal cases when this is necessary for carrying out an investigation.

The proposal will be sent to the relevant parties for perusal in the near future, the ministry spokeswoman said.

## Knesset approves Bezeq rate hike

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved the Communications Ministry's proposal for updating Bezeq and Bezeq International rates. Phone bills will go up by an average of 3.14% (the consumer price index rose by 8.57% since the last rate hike). The changes went into effect last night at midnight.

In addition, the rate schedule has been simplified by reducing the number of time groups in a 24-hour period. Instead of five, there are only three.

The old schedule had separate rates from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., and 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. The new schedule has the

most expensive rates from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., intermediate rates from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., and the cheapest rates from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.

For most people, the monthly service fee goes up from NIS 20.40 to NIS 30 (a 47% increase), while calls drop by an average of 6%. This means that the hike balances out at an average of 3.14%.

Subscribers who make fewer than 100 phone units in outgoing calls every two months will continue to pay the old service charge, the ministry said. Those who make between 101 and 150 phone units every two months will pay NIS 25.20 as a service fee in the larger and middle-sized towns and NIS 21.40 in the smaller towns.



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May 22

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Sunday

June 1

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Tour guide: Dr. Yoash Zohar

Monday

June 9

### ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY

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Thursday

June 19

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# Mobutu's son stuck in Congo

By COMBIETE COMBEY

LOME, Togo (AP) — Deposed dictator Mobutu Sese Seko was in Togo yesterday, after fleeing rebels who had captured his jungle palace in northern Zaire, Togolese government sources reported.

His eldest son, Kongulu, and 109 members of his extended family were stuck across the river from Kioshasa, in Brazzaville, Congo, because a flight crew that had been meant to fly them onwards refused to have anything more to do with the Mobutus.

The dictator was resting in a residence belonging to his old friend, Togolese dictator Gnassingbe Eyadema, government officials in this West African nation said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mobutu would not stay in Togo more than a few days, they said. His likely departure time would be clarified after he met with Eyadema this afternoon, when the Togolese dictator was due to return from a long weekend at his palace in northern Togo.

They did not yet know his ultimate destination.

That contradicted an earlier report on Togo state television that Mobutu had only briefly stopped in Togo on Sunday morning, on his way to Rabat, Morocco.

The television reported that Mobutu had slipped out of his home village of Gbadolite late Saturday night in a cargo plane just ahead of rebel leader Laurent Kabila's troops, and flew to Togo.

The television report, citing the "Mobutu encourage," said Mobutu had been awake by gunfire late Saturday night and determined



Rwandan men taken out of a hospital in Kinshasa are watched by a rebel soldier yesterday.

that rebel troops had entered his home village and were closing in on his palace. The rebels fired on the departing plane.

Mobutu had fled from Kinshasa to Gbadolite on Friday morning.

On Saturday, rebels marched into Kinshasa and gave Kabila the victory in a seven-month war. Mobutu had sent his personal jet down from Gbadolite to Brazzaville to fly Kongulu and the others onwards, but when it landed at Brazzaville's Maya Maya airport, the crew quit, Brazzaville

police said.

Kongulu was staying with Congolese politicians who had greeted him — and disarmed him — when he fled across the Congo river.

When the crew refused to fly him, Kongulu hired a local jet Saturday night to fly to Gabon — but the government of formerly friendly Gabonese dictator, Omar Bongo, refused to allow him to land.

Kongulu, a senior army officer, was the son most closely associated with his father's brutal excesses. He was nicknamed "Saddam

Hussein," and Zairians trashed his house yesterday with special glee.

A check of hotels showed that some of Mobutu's close advisers were also in the Togolese capital including ex-foreign minister Kamanda Wa Kamanda, who had been rumored shot dead in Kinshasa.

Eyadema had been one of the few international leaders to condemn Kabila for capturing the capital of Kinshasa — Mobutu's last stronghold — instead of maintaining a South African-brokered

dialogue with Mobutu.

The two dictators had led their countries since the mid-1960s, and both enjoyed the support of France — another country that expressed its displeasure with Kabila. French police prevented Kabila loyalists from taking over the Zairian embassy in Paris yesterday.

Moroccan officials said Mobutu was to stop briefly in Rabat, then continue on to a European destination, where he would wait out the French elections before continuing to France.

## UK Labor promises 'speedy' sleaze probe

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's Labor government yesterday promised a "speedy" investigation into allegations that one of its new members of parliament bribed a rival in the May 1 election.

Mohammed Sarwar, who became Britain's first Muslim member of parliament when he won Glasgow's Govan constituency, has strongly denied claims in the *News of the World* newspaper that he had bribed an opponent to ease up on his canvassing.

Sarwar announced at the weekend he was consulting lawyers about taking out a writ against the newspaper for defamation.

Aides from Prime Minister Tony Blair's Downing Street office confirmed yesterday that police were investigating the allegations and said a separate party inquiry would be

formalized this week.

One aide said the party investigation would be completed "speedily." He declined to give further details.

At the election, Sarwar won with 2,914 more votes than his nearest rival, the Scottish National Party's Nicola Sturgeon.

The bribery claims are the first cloud over the new government, whose landslide victory was aided by allegations of financial and sexual sleaze against Conservative politicians.

Throughout the election campaign, Blair contrasted his firm approach to party discipline to what he described as the weak and dithering approach of the defeated premier, John Major.

Labour officials say that if Sarwar is charged by police he would be expelled

from the party. If found guilty he would be forced to resign his seat.

Sarwar, 46, moved to Scotland from Pakistan at the age of four. He became a millionaire after building up a successful retail business and has been involved in the Labor Party for more than 10 years.

Bpt his selection as Labor candidate followed a bitter struggle with a former MP, Mike Watson, whose constituency was abolished by a commission redrawing electoral boundaries.

The selection battle gave rise to allegations of irregularities in the registration of Labor party members.

Police are investigating the eligibility of almost 300 people who were included late on the electoral roll.

## Mother, grandma poisoned child

NEW YORK (AP) — A 5-year-old girl's grandmother and mother are accused of forcing her to swallow a lethal cocktail of ammonia, vinegar, cayenne pepper and olive oil, then putting her body out with the trash.

Grandmother Rosa Wilkerson originally told police Amy Burney died of natural causes and lay dead for days before they put her out with the garbage in front of their Bronx apartment building.

Police later concluded that Amy was poisoned, possibly as punishment, and were going to sift through garbage at Staten Island's Fresh Kills landfill yesterday or today in hopes of finding the body.

"She was restrained and her mouth was gagged, and she was intentionally forced to ingest this mixture by both her grandmother and her mother," Deputy Police Commissioner Patrick Kelleher said.

"We don't know exactly why she was forced to ingest the chemicals, whether it was for punishment, or to have some other effect on her," he said.

The mother, Angelic Burney, 25, and Wilkerson, 46, who also goes by the name Rosa Downing, were charged with second-degree murder after detectives interrogated them for hours, Kelleher said. Police believe Amy died around April 27.

Newspapers quoted sources as saying Wilkerson claimed she forced the girl to drink the poison to exorcise demons from her body. The girl's mouth was taped shut to prevent her from spitting out the poison.

Wilkerson reportedly told police that she and her daughter believed the little girl was possessed, since she was prone to throwing tantrums.

## TESHUVA

Continued from Page 4

According to Yitzhak, when the man reached the pearly gates, he was given a visa. Since he had not observed the commandments, he could not be sent to heaven.

But since he was illiterate and could not study them, he could not be sent to hell. Therefore, it was decided that he could visit both, but belong to neither.

The man decided to visit heaven first. There, couthoused Yitzhak, "he sees righteous people crowned in glory, basking in God's splendor. They are dressed in white, studying Torah, surrounded by green lawns, enticing streams and chirping birds."

But he soon became bored by the lack of action in heaven and the fact that he had no friends there. So he decided to visit hell. At hell's gate, he met a "black-throated" demon-guard, who said he had never before heard

of anyone volunteering to enter hell. However, he examined the visa, saw it was valid, and let him in.

"So," continues Yitzhak in his street slang, "the man goes down to furnace No. 7 to find his friend, Avrum."

"He finds the guy, who was always making up stories and huffing his way through life, and he was stretched out on a spit, being turned over the fire. Black, red, black, red, turning all the time."

"I says to him, 'Avrum, what's going on, heaven have mercy! What's happened to you? Where are the other guys? Don't you have any backing here? This is what they do to you?'"

"He says to me, 'What kind of hacking are you talking about? Here, it's on your back, on your stomach, on your back, on your stomach.'"

"So I says, 'This is a terrible punishment.' 'This isn't the punishment,' he answers. 'This is the recess.' Avrum then tells his friend

about a judge who was sent to hell, but because he had handed down a few just verdicts in his career, was allowed to choose his punishment. Each punishment he saw was worse than the next, until he finally saw people immersed up to their necks in a pool of excrement, heathing hard.

"So the judge says, this is one of the easier punishments. At least the head remains above the surface."

"Then, just as he immerses himself and starts getting used to it, gets the heathing right, floods his rhythm, he hears a gong and an angel announces: 'Recess over, put your heads back in!'"

"The man with the visa said he'd had enough and decided to beat it out of hell. But when he reached the gate, he found that the demon-guard had been replaced by an even more frightening one, a giant full of eyes."

"So," continues Yitzhak, "he comes to the gate and says, 'Open up, open up, I want to leave.' 'But the demon says, 'Anyone who comes in, don't go out again.' 'Look here, I've got a visa,' the man replies. He takes out his visa to show him, but the demon looks him straight in the eye and shrugs: 'I can't read,' he says. 'Now get back inside.' 'Not only had Yitzhak managed to coterain his listeners with a good punchline-cum-moral lesson. He had also frightened some of them with his graphic description of the hell that awaits anyone who does not obey Halacha. Yitzhak may talk like "one of the boys." But he knows that many in his audience, especially the younger ones, the impressionable and the susceptible, will take him literally and respond accordingly.

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## In search of vision

Outgoing US Ambassador Martin Indyk decided to vent his frustration on Sunday with a blast at both sides in the peace process.

According to Indyk, "The core-bargain of Oslo has broken down. Israelis were promised security; Palestinians were promised self-government and a credible pathway to negotiating their rights in a final status agreement."

This is a puzzling explanation for the breakdown of the process. The Palestinians have certainly pulled back from their security cooperation with Israel. Recent releases of Hamas members arrested by the Palestinian Authority just reemphasize the marked deterioration in security cooperation since Israel's decision to build on Jerusalem's Har Homa. But how has Israel deviated from a "credible pathway" towards a final status agreement?

Perhaps to answer this question, Indyk continued: "Terrorism on one side and unilateral acts which have created the impression that the final status issues are being preempted on the other, have combined to break this trust on which the partnership for peace is based."

Here the ambassador gets into deeper water. At the very moment he bemoans the death of Oslo, he hammers a nail into the coffin. Oslo is not a philosophy, or a religion, or a way of life — it is an agreement. The agreement is a long and complicated one, but it boils down to this: The Palestinians must not only cease terrorism, but join Israel in combating it; Israel must withdraw from most of the areas where Palestinians live, and then negotiate a final status agreement.

The Oslo agreement — search high and low — includes no prohibition on Israeli building in Jerusalem, or anywhere in Judea and Samaria for that matter. Though no Israeli government would agree to such a prohibition, all, including the current one, have recognized the extreme Palestinian sensitivity to such building. And despite the Netanyahu government's rhetorical bluster, it has built less over the Green Line than its predecessors.

Only within Jerusalem itself, and slightly over the line in spots, has the government dared to act "unilaterally" — contrary to Palestinian wishes, but within Israel's rights under the agreement.

In comes Ambassador Indyk, with a direct equation between the Palestinian dropping of its "core" side of the bargain — the fight against terrorism — and Israel's provocative but legal assertion of its rights under the agreement.

It seems that the Netanyahu government, especially in its first few months, almost deliberately went about dismantling whatever trust and good will existed between the parties, and therefore much of the Israel's credibility in the international community. The Hebron agree-

ment restored confidence for a moment, but the Palestinians, sensing they had Israel on the ropes of public opinion, were quick to create a crisis at the next available opportunity, Har Homa. No one ever said the Har Homa decision made things easy, but at the end of the day a distinction must be made between what is in the Oslo agreement, and what the Palestinians pretend is there.

As a sponsor of the agreement, the United States has a special responsibility to make this distinction. By simply going with whoever complains the loudest rather than what is in the agreement, the United States is sowing the seeds of further crises, and making this one impossible to solve.

In his speech before the opening session of the Knesset yesterday, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu rightly pointed out the unfairness of being asked to abide restrictions beyond Oslo, while the Palestinians are not even being held to Oslo itself. Where Netanyahu is mistaken, however, is his interpretation of why the Palestinians get away with this. Netanyahu blames Israel's troubles on the fact that his government demands Palestinian compliance, and is unwilling to go back to the 1967 lines or to divide Jerusalem. This is a facile and not particularly fair comparison with previous governments, especially since Netanyahu has not really insisted on Palestinian compliance so far.

Netanyahu's real problem is that he has chosen to appease his right wing by accentuating real or imaginary differences with Labor's approach to the peace process, at the expense of poisoning the atmosphere with the Palestinians. In practice, Netanyahu is doing little different than what Labor would do. But he feels the need to distinguish himself from Labor somehow, so he implements Oslo, but reluctantly.

This policy of attempting to implement Oslo while bad-mouthing it, if it ever had any utility, has certainly reached the point of diminishing returns. The insistence on reciprocity is a correct and important Likud twist on the process, but it cannot be accomplished in a vacuum. The months and months of verbally trashing Oslo have sapped almost all the political benefits Netanyahu derived from its implementation.

Israel has a right to expect that the United States be an arbiter, but not arbitrary. The Palestinians had better wake up and realize that they have the most to lose from the collapse of the process, and that their public relations strength does not mean they can force their every desire upon Israel. And Netanyahu must realize his strength will come from developing his own positive vision of the peace process, rather than defining his policies in contrast to those of Labor.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE VIEW FROM EGYPT

Sir, — As an Egyptian living in Israel, I thought it might be useful to comment on David Homik's April 25 article, "an Israeli still stuck in Egypt."

I will not try to defend racism in the Egyptian press. However, I would like to express my belief that these people in the press only represent themselves and not the Egyptian government or the vast majority of Egyptians who, I find, are quite favorable to the peace with Israel.

However, the main problem is this: most people in Egypt believe that Israel is colonializing the West Bank and denying basic human rights to two million Palestinians (in addition to the millions more who cannot return to their homes or those of their fathers) while Israelis are free to settle there and are subject to the liberal Israeli laws (as opposed to British colonial laws allowing the destruction of people's houses). Now, one may argue that millions of people in Arab countries also

suffer under repressive regimes and that Israeli occupation has benefited the populations of the West Bank and Gaza. However, I will paraphrase Mahatma Gandhi on this point: people prefer their own bad government to the "good" colonial government; similar arguments were used by white South Africans to justify apartheid, but this did not make it correct.

Concerning the difficulties facing Egyptians traveling to Israel, I will just mention that in times when a compromise solution to the Palestinian problem seemed in sight, about 12,000 Egyptians visited Israel every year. This figure is obtained from a speech by Yossi Beilin.

Homik's criticism of Israelis favoring compromise as harboring slave mentality reflects a short-sighted attitude born of narrow ideological beliefs. The facts are that many Arab countries are rapidly developing (notice for example the phenomenal growth

in the Egyptian economy over the last few years which was recently compared to East Asian standards by the *Wall Street Journal*). The Arab world harbors enormous potential for development and Israel will not be facing the newly decolonized backward countries in the next 50 years it was facing in the last 50. It seems to me wise that Israel ensures that by the time Arabs are able to challenge it effectively, they are bound by economic and cultural ties that may discourage them from doing so.

Finally, Homik's contemptuous attitude is reflected in the fact that he is so sure of what the case of Azzam Azzam is all about and has no respect for the Egyptian legal system. If he had a little respect for his Egyptian neighbors, he would await the court's decision before writing such articles (as his government is rightly doing).

DR. AMR AHMED EL-ZANT

Haifa.

### MEDIA BIAS

Sir, — Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu charges journalists with a bias against a government of the Right. Journalists claim objectivity and consider criticism to be an incitement against the media. What are the facts?

First, the views of the Left are given more public exposure than those of the Right. Before the election, the *Ma'ariv* newspaper provided summaries of the number of appearances by political figures on television. On March 1, 1996, it revealed that 72 percent of the 566 appearances on Israel television during the previous two months were of political personalities from the Left.

Despite a new government of the Right, the Israeli public is more likely to hear the opinions of Dr. Ahmed Tibi, adviser to Yasser Arafat, than of most ministers in the government. Of course, an

appearance on television is guaranteed to any representative of the right who is ready to publicly criticize the prime minister.

Second, the media question the legitimacy of the present governments through constant speculation about its imminent collapse — either through the formation of a unity government, or by holding new elections.

Third, the media use different standards for evaluating political situations taking place under a rightist rather than a leftist government. The appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general under a Likud government provides a daily critique of government behavior. The appointment of Michael Ben-Yair as attorney-general produced little media invective despite the claim by *Davar* that the appointment was aimed at a delay in the Aryeh Deri trial.

Finally, there is the media nastiness, when journalists decide that certain events, of concern to the right, need not be fully investigated. For instance, little mention is made of the accumulation of armaments and soldiers next to our major cities in infringement of the Oslo Agreement. Also, no accounting is given of the high price to the Israeli economy from the large-scale theft of property permitted by the Palestinian Authority. And Israeli journalists seem reluctant to scrutinize police and GSS violations of the basic human rights of Jews living in Judea and Samaria.

By a partisan bias towards the Left, the Israeli media fails Israeli democracy in its important responsibility to keep the nation's citizens fully informed.

ALBERT I. GOLDBERG

Haifa.

DEE @ 97

WHERE ARE THE ARAB-AMERICANS WHEN YOU NEED THEM?



## Mismatch

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Last year, Garry Kasparov predicted no computer would beat any world chess champion before 2010. He was off by 13 years. IBM's Deep Blue beat Kasparov in New York in a six-game match with a sensational rout in the sixth and decisive game.

The chess world was stunned. The skeptics remain nonchalant. Big deal, they say, this is not really intelligence. This is just chess.

Obviously, machines don't have the kind of self-aware thoughts humans do. But that does not mean they are not capable of intelligence.

Intelligence is known by its product, not by its process. Who cares how a machine gets to its conclusions? After all, who knows how we humans get to ours?

Deep Blue, by its own "bypass," produced an intellectual product superior to a human one. To deny that this intelligence is a semantic trick: If machines don't do it the way we humans do, it ain't the real thing.

Well, Kasparov thinks it is the real thing. "When Garry Kasparov plays against the computer," said his adviser Frederic Friedel in a post-mortem, "he has the feeling its forming plans; it understands strategy; it is trying to trick him; it is blocking his ideas."

These are, of course, anthropomorphic metaphors. Deep Blue is aware of nothing, not even that it is playing chess. But its play is nonetheless shockingly complex and subtle, cold and precise. That is what so terrified Kasparov. And that terror cost him the match.

Never in his life had he lost any match to anyone or anything. He lost this time not because he was out-thought by the thinking machine, but because he was out-psych'd by it, demoralized by its very soullessness.

"I lost my fighting spirit," he confessed.

Kasparov was facing an opponent that was not just relentlessly logical, but, more important, lacking any of the human weaknesses. No anxiety. No pride. No fatigue. Above all, no fear.

That alone instills fear. The mismatch in this man-vs.-machine contest was not of intel-

## The difference between Kasparov and Deep Blue was not infallibility, but unflappability

lect. Kasparov's intuition was a good match for Deep Blue's calculation. The mismatch was in psychology. Kasparov was cursed with having one.

Take, for example, his worst blunder: resigning Game 2 when he could have drawn. He resigned on move 45 because he thought that no matter where he moved, he would soon be checkmated.

A few hours later, an amateur chess player on the Internet found Kasparov was wrong. Had he played an odd-looking series of rook and queen moves right away, Kasparov would have assured himself a draw.

This discovery caused a sensation. How did Garry miss it? Indeed how did the 20 grandmasters in the press room miss it too?

HOW? Awe. Deep Blue was far ahead. It was close to checkmate. Kasparov could not imagine that this prodigious calculator could, in its own move 45, have played something that might allow him to escape with a draw.

Deep Blue had indeed erred. But Kasparov, assuming Deep Blue to be infallible, gave into it. He gave up.

This never would have happened playing flesh and blood. In fact, it never has happened playing flesh and blood: Never before had Kasparov, or any world champion, resigned a game with a draw staring them in the face.

The difference in this match was not infallibility but unflappability. Both man and machine made mistakes. But only the man melted down.

This is important because feelings are the last redoubt of the artificial-intelligence skeptics.

Not to worry, they say. Humans will always remain superior. Even if a machine could think, they say it could never feel. It could never cry or love or brood about mortality.

Well, yes. Exactly right. And that makes these machines all the more terrifying. Stone-cold Deep Blue has just shown us why.

One day in the far future we will be up against machines — not just in chess but in life — that are not only monstrously intelligent, but utterly unfeeling.

Whom do you think that gives the edge to? Ask Garry Kasparov.

© Washington Post Writers Group

## Duplicity and danger

DANIEL LESHEM

In south Lebanon, you can't escape the sounds of the war the unholy alliance of Syria and Iran is waging on Israel's north via Hizbullah and other terrorist groups and militias.

Yet European envoy Miguel Moratinos hadn't heard any war drums beating to Damascus. The music still resounding in his ears, he said, was from Syrians "peace drums" during his visit to the country a week or two ago.

No wonder Hafez Assad, feudal ruler of Syria and Lebanon, prefers European mediators to American ones; they're so pliable.

In actual fact, the Syrians see to it that the Lebanese Army assists Hizbullah by firing at IDF aircraft; the Syrian-backed Amal and other groups have also occasionally planned raids against IDF naval patrol boats. One raid off the Lebanese coast was foiled yesterday by an alert Israeli naval patrol.

Hizbullah receives regular plane loads of weapons and ammunition, unloaded at Damascus Airport from Iranian Boeing 747 cargo planes. Each new arms shipment receives the blessing of Syrian army and intelligence chiefs and their Iranian Revolutionary Guard partners based in the Bekaa Valley. From the airport, the shipments, under Syrian escort, make their way to bases and arms depots in the Bekaa.

New weapons systems like longer-range artillery rockets doubtless receive prior Syrian approval.

One must not exclude the possibility that Hizbullah has also been receiving certain types of weapons systems, including anti-tank missiles, from the Syrian and Lebanese armies. The Soviet/Russian Fagot anti-tank missile it uses might, for instance, have come from Syrian army stocks as well as from Iranian, CIS and East European sources of supply.

Even though Hizbullah is usually made to pay a considerable price for its attacks, every IDF or South Lebanese Army casualty is likely to be hailed by Hizbullah leaders, their Iranian godfathers in Damascus and Beirut, and by

logistic facilities in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley and in Syria itself.

Assad has close ties to the Saudi ruling family, especially Crown Prince Abdullah, and wants to improve his relations with the US — both of which would seem to rule out any such involvement.

And how shocked US and Saudi officials must have been to learn of Syria's decision to execute a Saudi militant, Ja'far el-Marzouk Dweihat, who had escaped to Syria following the Dhahran bombing, rather than extradite him to Saudi Arabia or the US at the request of the Saudis, and probably US officials too.

Assad and his intelligence chiefs obviously feared that the Saudi Hizbullah militant might reveal the full extent of Syrian involvement and support for Iranian-backed Saudi terrorists opposed to the Saudi regime and engaged in a jihad against US and Western interests in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Another Saudi member of Hizbullah, Haqi Abdell Rahim Sayegh, who fled to Canada following the Dhahran bombing and was recently arrested there, might still be extradited to the US. If so, he may be able to fill in the blanks regarding Syria's involvement in the Dhahran bombing, information his co-militant might have spilled had he not been silenced in the Syrian effort at damage control.

Assad's duplicity may be no less dangerous than that of Iran's Rafsanjani, who, until the recent Mykonos trial verdict in Germany, had managed to fool quite a few Western politicians into seeing him as a moderate.

The Syrian leader's two-faced peace strategy may, in fact, constitute no less of a threat to regional and world stability than that posed by Iranian-backed Osama bin Laden in his Afghan mountain hideout, running his holy war operations against the US and Western military presence in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

The writer is a strategic affairs analyst.

## Too quick to judge others

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Since the airing of Michael Karpin's controversial documentary on what led up to the Rabin assassination, I have been unable to shake off a frustrating, almost angry feeling that the film simply missed the point.

It blamed everyone on the Right, directly or indirectly, for what happened: those who incited, those who internalized the incitement, those who sought to benefit politically from it — even people like MKs Michael Eitan and Uzi Landau, who felt uncomfortable with what was going on, but merely walked away in disgust.

That is all correct, and it has all been said before, but it is incomplete, and regrettably one-sided. The film described a disease, but offered no prognosis, no hint of a remedy in a situation where, without one, the patient — society — could fall apart.

And here is our society today, urgently needing to stem the growing hatred some parts feel for others.

Without that, we will not be able to weed out those who gave their blessing to the murder, citing a false god rejected by most of this country's religious population. We will not be able to uproot those who have no qualms about destroying everything we here have worked for in the last 100 years.

It may be difficult for us on the other side of the political spectrum

toward it only added fuel to the fire.

This does not mean Rabin was responsible for his own death, as many extreme right-wingers argue. But it cannot be escaped that he and his colleagues did nothing to try and put out the fire, or at least to contain it.

Would the outcome have been different had the government taken a different psychological approach? We cannot know, but any honest analysis should have debated this point.

Then there is the role played by Avishai Rabin and his Eyal organization. Clearly the GSS did use Rabin in some capacity, and clearly — either on GSS instructions or, more likely, on his own accord — Rabin acted as an agent provocateur among some right-wing fringe groups.

The GSS is under Defense Ministry control. Rabin was defense minister at the time, and though it is unlikely that he knew every detail, GSS policy formed a part of the chain of events, and the film should have examined it.

We need to stop pointing accusing fingers, and begin trying to heal wounds. The Left is too quick to pass judgment on others, and too wary of looking at the broader picture, including its own conduct.

Understanding and rapprochement are the urgent need of the day. To these, Karpin's film contributed nothing.

The writer is a political scientist.



## BUSINESS

in brief

### Speaker to take part in Generali discussion

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon has agreed to participate in a Knesset insurance subcommittee discussion on Assicurazioni Generali's continued refusal to honor insurance policies of Holocaust victims, according to subcommittee chairman Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher). The Italian-based insurance company was invited in March to meet senior Knesset Finance Committee members to discuss the issue, but has so far failed to take up the offer. *David Harris*

### April rail usage up 12%

Rail passenger use increased by 12 percent last month, compared to April 1996, Israel Railways announced yesterday. Some 438,000 people used the trains in April, making a four-month total of two million since January, a 13% rise on the same period last year. The largest increase in April came again on the Ashdod-Rehovot-Tel Aviv line, up 46% with 76,000 passengers. There was also a 6% increase to 180,000 on the Tel Aviv-Haifa route. *David Harris*

### Israel, Latvia sign telecom accord

Communications Minister Limor Livnat last week signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of telecom with Latvia. Livnat was visiting the Baltics accompanied by Director-General Daniel Rosenne and a high-level delegation of Israeli businessmen. The Israel-Latvia accord sets down a number of principles, including joint initiatives between the two communications ministries and various research institutes, especially for the development of new technologies. Later in the day, Livnat went to Estonia to sign a similar agreement, and tomorrow morning, a cooperation agreement with Lithuania will be signed in Vilna. *Judy Siegel*

### Bezeq-Kol, Bezeq-Bit merge

Bezeq-Kol and Bezeq-Bit have united into a single company called Bezeq-Kol Communications Ltd. It was announced yesterday. The firm also has a new logo and a combined workforce of 250. The new acting managing director is Ya'acov Schwartz. The company markets peripheral telephone equipment and sells and services private telephone exchanges. *Judy Siegel*

### Romanian trade delegation visits

The Romanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Romanian-Israeli Chamber of Commerce and Industry will host a six-day trade mission to Israel that begins May 18. The trade mission will be headed by Liviu Hagea, secretary of state in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and includes representatives from 25 Romanian companies in the metallurgical, building machinery, electrical, mechanical tools, yarns, cars and accessories industries. The mission coincides with the presentation of Romania's national pavilion at the Technology '97 exhibition. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### Albright: Clinton to ask for China trade status

US President Bill Clinton has decided to renew China's most favored nation trading status for the coming year, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said yesterday. Clinton is expected to announce the move shortly, Albright said in a speech in Wilmington, Delaware. "The administration's view is that our long-term interests are best served by a strategic dialogue with the Chinese leaders on a full range of issues...China with or without MFN status will be a rising force in world affairs," she said. *Reuter*

# Economy grew by 2.8% during 1st quarter

By DAVID HARRIS

The economy grew at an annual rate of 2.8 percent in the first quarter of 1997, according to initial estimates published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

This growth pace of the gross domestic product (GDP), which continues the trend seen in the last three quarters of 1996, when growth ranged from 2%-3%, reflects a significant slow-down in economic growth, which during the first half of the decade registered an annual average of roughly 7%.

Among the major changes in the economy in the quarter were a substantial increase in exports, and a 50% decline in government-sponsored housing investments.

The export of goods and services showed a 13%-14% rise on the previous quarter. Over the last year, exports grew 6%.

Imports, excluding military purchases, ships, and airplanes, and after seasonal adjustments increased 5%-6% in the first quarter.

Private consumption expenditure rose at an annual 7%, which equates to 5% per capita growth. This follows a considerable reduction in per capita private consumption between October and December.

There was an annual 5% decrease in expenditure on durable goods (this comprises some 12% of all private consumption). This is a continuation of the trend in the final quarter of 1996. Durable

goods include motor vehicles, furniture, and household equipment. The main decline was in the per capita purchase of vehicles, down 26%. This was offset to some extent by a 28% increase in furniture purchases.

Per capita private consumption, excluding durables, increased at an annual 6%, after a 13% decrease in the final quarter of 1996.

Investments in fixed assets were unchanged, continuing the stagnation recorded since July. However, investments in machinery and vehicles for industry fell by an annual 33%.

"There is an increasing consensus amongst forecasters that growth this year will only reach 1%-2%," said Hebrew University

professor of public finance Eytan Sheshinski, who maintains the economy is not yet recessionary but in serious slowdown. "They are all downscaling their estimates for growth."

There must be an immediate joint cut in Bank of Israel interest rates by at least 1% and a budget cut of NIS 700 million to NIS 800m, according to Sheshinski.

However, economist Haim Ben-Shahar of Ben-Shahar Associates, was not prepared to blame the slowdown on the central bank's interest policy. "I do not see any justification for reducing interest rates," he said. "This has become a Treasury fixation."

In terms of reasons for the slowdown, Ben-Shahar offered:

• The end of the large influx of immigrants during the early 1990s and their reduced influence on the economy.

• The diplomatic situation, which is causing doubts in the minds of investors.

• The 1996 increase in public expenditure, which led to the government budget cut, and the need for a further cut this year.

• Exports in 1995 and 1996 were down from exports in 1993 and 1994 by some 8%. However, initial indications this year, seem to suggest an increase in exports.

Officials in the Finance Ministry refused to discuss the suggestion of sub-2% growth until they begin discussing the 1998 budget next month.



The latest model

Nissan Motor Co. President Yoshikazu Hanawa unveils the company's new luxury Caravan/Homy Elgrand at a Tokyo hotel yesterday. *(Reuter)*

## Currency market reform deadlocked

By DAVID HARRIS

Nine months after the Bank of Israel handed the Treasury a blueprint for a major liberalization of the currency market, the two bodies are "not even close to finalizing" the measures, according to a senior central bank source.

The main sticking point in the talks, led by the bank's Supervisor of Foreign Currency David Klein and Finance Ministry Director-General Shmuel Slavin, concerns institutional investors' permission to invest abroad.

At present, an institutional investor, such as a mutual fund, bank, or pension fund, is only allowed to invest overseas a maximum of 2 percent of its total capital. One of the central bank's main recommendations is to increase that figure to 5%.

The Treasury initially objected to this, but then offered to introduce the measure incrementally over several years. The central bank agreed, but the source claims the Treasury then said that every change in a particular portfolio would also have to be made incrementally.

"You can't manage a portfolio like that," said the source. "That's not a liberalization, but an increase in regulation."

While some agreements have been reached, there are a number of major outstanding issues to be resolved, according to the source.

Refusing to enter into specifics, Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef agreed that there are still differences of opinion.

Some measures that were approved by the bank and Treasury in February:

• Citizens can now deposit more from foreign currency loans.

• It is now possible for Israelis to buy any foreign securities, either abroad or via a local broker.

• Citizens can now purchase foreign currency at commercial banks, up to the value of \$7,000, without having to provide proof of travel.

• Israelis living abroad may take their assets with them over the course of five years, starting two years after the date they leave the country. Each year they may remove 20 percent, or \$50,000, whichever is higher.

## COMPANY RESULTS

### Tadiran Telecom net down 58%

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Tadiran Telecommunications Ltd. yesterday reported a 58 percent drop in first-quarter net income to \$5.1 million from \$11.9m. in the same quarter last year.

Revenues for the quarter were up to \$116.9m., a 2% increase over last year.

Haim Rosen, Tadiran Telecommunications president and CEO, said the decline in profitability was the result of an increase in mar-

keting expenses. The Petah Tikva-based maker of telecommunication equipment and systems is currently focusing its efforts on increasing overseas sales as it braces for a continued drop in orders from the local market.

"We saw Bezeq as a strategic customer, but this is a large company that has to keep up with the competition," Rosen said.

The results "reflect our fundamental shift from a domestic to an export-oriented organization." Sales to Bezeq in the first quar-

ter of 1997 dropped to \$30m. from \$56m. in the same period last year, while exports rose to \$63m. from \$36m. over the same period.

TTI Team Telecom International Ltd. recently announced a first-quarter rise in net income to \$462,000 from \$128,000 in the same period last year.

Revenues for the period were also up, totaling \$2.7m., compared with \$1.4m. in the first quarter of 1996.

The company attributed the results to its success in winning new contracts, naming a recent deal with Teltus Communications of Calgary, Canada.

TTI Team Telecom of Petah Tikva develops integrated software products and services for network systems in the telecommunications industry.

Taldor Computer Systems yesterday reported a 19% increase in net profits from NIS 1.22m. in the first quarter of 1996 to NIS 1.46m. in the same period this year.

Revenues for the quarter were up 35% to NIS 50.23m.

Based in Ramat Gan, Taldor's activities include the development and support of information systems, security software and managing the installation of computer systems.

## US firms to block junk E-mail

MENLO PARK, California (Reuter) - A privately held Internet company said it would announce late yesterday a pact with a big sender of bulk commercial E-mail solicitations that can enable registered voters to block junk E-mail.

John Phillips, president of San Francisco-based Aristotele, said in an interview Sunday that the deal with Cyber Promotions Inc. and its president Sanford Wallace could help control unwanted bulk E-mail advertising.

Wallace's Cyber Promotions is said to account for more than 4 million electronic mail advertisements a day and his methods have resulted in recent lawsuits brought by service providers and prompted heated Internet debate.

Phillips said some Internet experts have expressed surprise that his company's fledgling Internet business would establish a direct deal with a service which has been subjected to scathing commentary in Web discussions.

But he said the deal could put additional legal teeth into individual requests to block the electronic mail advertising because Aristotele has created legal electronic mailboxes covering the nation's 138 million voters.

Internet users have complained in the past that Cyber Promotions has not honored requests to remove them from its lists permanently and the service has been accused of taking unusual measures to circumvent

blocking mechanisms.

"We're bringing the lion into the den," Phillips said in an interview ahead of yesterday's announcement. "Ultimately, his [Wallace's] customers are not all that interested in sending mail to people who get pissed off."

The agreement addresses the practice on the Internet known as "spamming" - widely detested by individuals whose electronic mailboxes can quickly fill up with unwanted E-mail solicitations and by companies and Internet service providers whose services can be clogged by the messages.

Two separate court cases in the last twelve months, brought by Prodigy Service Corp. and America Online Inc., have dealt a blow to Cyber Promotions' E-mail practices. In the America Online case a federal judge ruled the company had no constitutional right to send such messages.

Under the Aristotele deal, any registered US voter may request the blocking service at ([www.aristotele.org](http://www.aristotele.org)) for up to five electronic mail addresses, Phillips said.

The service is free and part of Aristotele's effort to leverage its database of 138 million voters nationwide into an Internet-based official electronic mail service.

Aristotele, which is also seeking roughly \$2 million in early stage venture investment for its E-mail business, has established legal electronic mailboxes for each US voter for receiving government

and commercial E-mail.

The company said individuals representing more than 1.2 million E-mail addresses have already signed up for the blocking service.

Aristotele, founded over a decade ago, supplies services and software to politicians and political parties on registered voters in the more than 3,100 US counties.

Last year the company and the California secretary of state launched a pilot program to enable the state's 14 million registered voters to receive official notices through E-mail, saving the state postage processing costs.

Aristotele calculates the average consumer receives 1,000 pieces of junk mail and many unwanted telephone solicitations a year and hopes to divert some of this traffic to its legal electronic mailboxes.

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT!**  
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- One Month \$25 US Dollars/NIS 88
- Two Month \$45 US Dollars/NIS 158
- Three Months \$70 US Dollars/NIS 245
- Six Months \$130 US Dollars/NIS 458

Maximum 30 words  
List category and sub-category.

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

Don't forget your contact address /phone /fax /e-mail in your message.

Fax this form: In US & Canada, 212-599-4743  
In Israel & the rest of the world: 972-2-531-5622  
or place your ad directly on our web site at <http://www.jpост.co.il>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ Card type \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No. \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**NO TELEPHONE SUBMISSIONS**

**The Ministry of the Interior**  
Bid No. 4/97  
Request for Proposals (RFP)  
National Outline Scheme and Document of Principles for Building and Development - NOS 35  
Extension of Date for Documents Purchase

The final date for the purchase of the RFP documents, which was announced on April 14, 1997, has been extended to Thursday, May 29, 1997. The documents may be purchased from Mr. Yosef Ginzberg, The Ministry of the Interior, Kiryat Ben-Gurion, 2 Rahov Kaplan, Room 105, Jerusalem, from Sunday to Thursday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

No change has been made in other details of the original notice.

Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM?

**JOHN DEB TELEBANK**  
DIAL 60-512811 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM  
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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.925	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (18.5.97)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6908	3.7197			3.6927
German mark	3.3628	3.4172	3.30	3.47	3.3920
Pound sterling	1.9732	2.0051	1.99	2.04	1.9922
French franc	5.5101	5.5990	5.41	5.68	5.5519
Japanese yen (100)	0.5864	0.5859	0.57	0.61	0.5916
Dutch florin	2.8908	2.9375	2.84	2.98	2.9151
Swiss franc	1.7565	1.7849	1.72	1.81	1.7720
Norwegian krone	0.4410	0.4482	0.43	0.46	0.4448
Danish krone	0.4741	0.4818	0.46	0.49	0.4784
Finland mark	0.5207	0.5291	0.51	0.54	0.5252
Canadian dollar	0.6541	0.6627	0.64	0.68	0.6602
Australian dollar	2.4478	2.4871	2.40	2.58	2.4701
S. African rand	2.6000	2.6400	2.55	2.68	2.6235
Belgian franc (10)	0.7520	0.7642	0.68	0.77	0.7586
Austrian schilling (10)	0.8957	0.9222	0.84	0.95	0.8947
Italian lira (1000)	2.8033	2.8486	2.75	2.89	2.8235
Jordanian dinar	2.0096	2.0421	1.97	2.08	2.0288
Egyptian pound	4.7431	4.8197	4.68	5.00	4.8166
ECU	0.9500	1.0400	0.96	1.04	0.9847
Irish punt	3.8830	3.9152	3.80	4.04	3.8847
Spanish peseta (100)	5.1321	5.2149	5.04	5.29	5.1808
	2.3434	2.3812	2.30	2.42	2.3655

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for stock name, last price, and change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

Table listing Israeli shares with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

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MISHTANIM LEADING STOCKS TASE ISSUES table listing top performing stocks.

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MISHTANIM LEADING STOCKS TASE ISSUES table listing top performing stocks.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES table listing international stock prices.

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NEW YORK table listing New York stock prices.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Stocks drop on M1 increase

Mishtanim 313.65 ▲ ±7.95%

Maof 313.67 ▼ ±2.92%

Stock indexes fell after a higher-than-expected increase in M1 money supply in April blunted optimism the Bank of Israel will lower interest rates.

Chemical companies declined as the dollar weakened against the shekel in recent days. Exporting chemical companies are hurt by a stronger shekel, because they earn in dollars and pay expenses in shekels.

Discount Investments did say on Sunday that its first-quarter net income rose 21%.

Key Representative Rates table showing US Dollar and Sterling rates.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES table listing various market indices.

NYSE STOCKS table listing NYSE stock prices.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES table listing other market indices.

DOLLAR CROSSEXTS (US) table listing dollar cross rates.

US COMMODITIES table listing US commodity prices.

LONDON COMMODITIES table listing London commodity prices.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US) table listing spot market metals.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES table listing New York metal futures.

LONDON METAL FIXES table listing London metal fixes.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA table listing data communications.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

WALL STREET REPORT

Stocks end higher; unfazed by Fed meeting

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks closed on an upbeat note yesterday as Wall Street was unfazed by the possibility that the Federal Reserve might raise interest rates at its policy-setting meeting today.

age was up 34.21 points at 7,228.88, bouncing back from Friday's sell-off of nearly 140 points.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT.

the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: selection of works. Tzvi Hecker: Sunflower. Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists. Visual Ready: The domestic and medical in contemporary Israeli art.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Tuesday, May 20 PHARMACIES

Moshe David Adom In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country.

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 15 Agrippas, 624-3469; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Al-Jadwa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.

Haifa: WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

Tel Aviv: Pharmas Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040; Superpharm Gimel, 1 Ahimeir, Ramat Aviv Gimel, 641-7171. Till 1 a.m. Wednesday; Pharmas Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040. Till midnight; Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London Minimstore Superpharm, 4 Shaal Hamelech, 696-0115.

Haifa: Habankim, 5 Habankim, 851-3005.

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by CommStock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963. Due to technical failures data may be inaccurate. The Jerusalem Post will not be held responsible for the consequences of any transaction made on the basis of these data.

Krayot area: Hayesod, 73 Keren Hayesod, Kiryat Bialik, 870-4185.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Meretzim, 6 Maskit (car. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituh, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, ENT); Hadassah Ein Kerem (ophthalmology).

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110. The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205. 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, ENT); Hadassah Ein Kerem (ophthalmology).

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-6514111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic).

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).

Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7676.

Police 100, Fire 102, First Aid 101.

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Police 100, Fire 102, First Aid 101.

# Eli Cohen named new coach of Hapoel Tel Aviv

By DEREK FATTAL

Jerusalem outfit follows months of speculation over his future with the club.

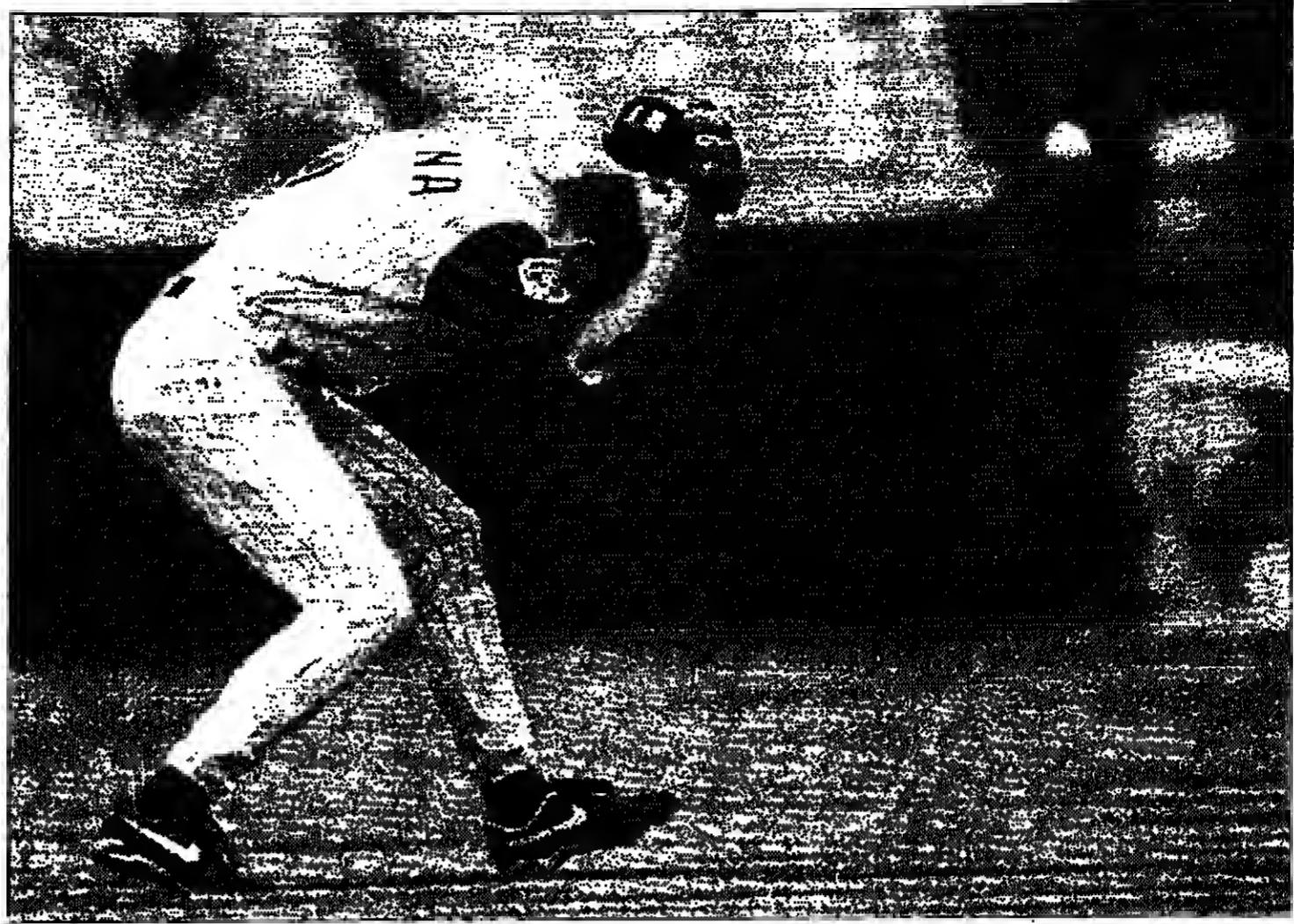
Hapoel Tel Aviv's chief executive Moti Orenstein also announced yesterday the appointment of Emanuel Sheffer, the man who steered Israel to its one-and-only appearance in the World Cup Finals, in Mexico in 1970, to oversee the club's youth development program.

The Hapoel board clearly hopes that its new professional management team can revive the club's former glory days after a nightmare season in which the club was wrenched from the ownership of the Histadrut, divested itself of former coach Moshe Sinai, and only escaped relegation by a whisker under the command of Kashtan.

Eli Cohen, the man who guided this season's National League champions, Betar Jerusalem, to their third-ever title success last weekend was officially named yesterday as the man who will coach Hapoel Tel Aviv next season.

The appointment completes a bizarre case of musical chairs which sees Cohen step into the shoes of Dror Kashtan, the man appointed on Sunday to be his own replacement at Betar during the next campaign.

Despite Cohen's undeniable prowess over the last year at Betar he has maintained an uneasy relationship with his board the last few months, and his departure from the



**BLINDED**—Anaheim Angels shortstop Gary Discarcina covers his head after he was momentarily blinded by the sun and lost sight of the ball (right), allowing Milwaukee Brewers' Gerald Williams a double in first-inning action of the game in Anaheim. (Reuters)

# Rangers edge Flyers to tie series 1-1

PHILADELPHIA (Reuters) — Wayne Gretzky racked up a hat trick, Mark Messier had a goal and two assists and the New York Rangers held on for a 5-4 win over the Philadelphia Flyers to tie the Eastern Conference finals at a game each on Sunday.

Gretzky had back-to-back fluke goals on the power play in a 1:59 span of the first period, then completed his 10th career playoff hat trick, and his third of this series, midway through the second to put the Rangers ahead for good 4-3.

New York has dropped the first game in nine straight playoff series, but has come back to win Game Two seven times.

The Rangers wrested home-ice advantage in the series and host Game Three today.

In the first two periods, New York abandoned the defensive style it has employed throughout the postseason.

But Gretzky blunted a Philadelphia rally with his third goal of the game. It came just two minutes after Rod Brind'Amour scored to boost the Flyers into a 3-3 tie.

Gretzky held up just inside the Philadelphia zone before cutting to the top of the slot and firing a slap shot that deflected into the net off goaltender Garth Snow's glove.

The goal extended Gretzky's own record with his 120th career playoff score.

"I don't know I got a little bit lucky," Gretzky said. "On the first goal the puck bounced off the glass in front of me and I was the one who got there."

"On the second I just wanted to throw it in front, and it went through the goalie's legs, hit the defenceman (Karl Dykhuis) on the toe and went in. The third goal Snow got his glove on it, but it dropped on him," Messier broke in 2-on-1 with Gretzky just over four minutes later and put a wrist shot through Snow's pads from the right faceoff circle for his third playoff goal and first since Game Five of the opening round.

It chased Snow, who surrendered five goals on only 10 shots and was replaced by Ron Hextall.

Hextall kept the Flyers in the game by stopping Esa Tikkanen on a breakaway and Philadelphia closed within 5-4 with 4:49 to go in the period. Shjon Podesin and Joel Otto came in 2-on-1 and worked a give-and-go, with Podesin deflecting Otto's pass into the net.

But New York smothered the Flyers in the third period, holding them to eight shots and limiting them to a handful of scoring chances.

# Orioles rally in ninth inning to sweep Seattle

SEATTLE (Reuters) — Rafael Palmeiro's two-out, two-run single in the top of the ninth inning turned a one-run deficit into a one-run lead as the Baltimore Orioles swept the Mariners in Seattle for the first time in nearly eight years, 8-7, on Sunday.

The Orioles rallied from a 7-6 deficit in the ninth when Eric Davis led off with a single and moved to second on Cal Ripken's one-out single to center field.

Norm Charlton (2-3) walked B.J. Surhoff to load the bases but struck out Jeffrey Hammonds. Palmeiro followed by lacing a 1-1 pitch into short center field, scoring pinch-runner Tony Tarasco and Ripken, who just beat the throw to the plate for an 8-7 lead.

Indians 8, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, Matt Williams bombed twice and drove in three runs and Chad Ogea pitched 6 1/3 innings for his second straight win as the Cleveland Indians posted an 8-6 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Williams blasted a two-run shot in the first and added a solo homer, his 13th, leading off the third as Cleveland stormed to a 7-2 lead.

The Blue Jays have lost four of their last six games after winning four in a row.

Tigers 6, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Tony Clark went 4-for-5 with an RBI single in a three-run seventh inning, and former Royal Bob Hamelin had a pair of run-scoring singles to lead the Detroit Tigers to a 6-5 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

Clark, Travis Fryman and Hamelin had RBI singles in the seventh to give Detroit a 6-4 lead.

Kansas City's Mike Sweeney hit two homers runs.

Twins 7, Red Sox 5

At Minnesota, Pat Meares had a two-run single to cap a five-run first inning and the Minnesota Twins held on for a 7-5 victory over the Boston Red Sox in the rubber-game of a three-game set.

Rich Robertson won the game, allowing five runs — two earned

— and six hits over 6-2/3 innings.

Rick Aguilera, the sixth Minnesota pitcher, allowed one hit in a scoreless ninth inning for his seventh save.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

Braves 5, Cardinals 1

In Atlanta, Tom Glavine pitched a seven-hitter for his second complete game of the season and Jeff Blausler's two-run double highlighted a three-run seventh inning as the Atlanta Braves beat the St. Louis Cardinals 5-1.

Glavine (5-2) struck out four and walked two. His only mistake was Ron Gant's seventh homer of the year in the fourth inning.

The Cardinals' Andy Benes retired 19 consecutive batters before Javy Lopez singled with two outs in the seventh inning.

Mark Lemke followed with a single before Blausler's double gave Atlanta a 3-1 lead.

Cubs 5, Giants 3

In Chicago, Sammy Sosa's second home run of the game, a solo shot in the seventh inning,

snapped a tie and lifted the Chicago Cubs to a 5-3 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

Sosa belted a 2-0 pitch from Julian Tavarez (0-2) over the center field fence to give Chicago a 4-3 lead. The Cubs added an insurance run in the seventh on an RBI single by Ryne Sandberg.

Expos 7, Dodgers 4

In Montreal, Mike Lansing had five hits and drove in three runs, and Pedro Martinez went seven innings to win his seventh game, leading the Montreal Expos to 7-4 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Lansing had two singles, two doubles, a solo homer, a stolen base and scored three runs.

Sunday's NL games: Philadelphia 5, Houston 3; Montreal 7, Los Angeles 4; Florida 5, Pittsburgh 3; 10 innings; NY Mets 10, Colorado 4; Chicago Cubs 5, San Francisco 3; Cincinnati 5, San Diego 9; Atlanta 5, St. Louis 1.

Sunday's AL games: Cleveland 8, Toronto 6; Minnesota 7, Boston 5; Detroit 6, Kansas City 5; Texas 4, NY Yankees 2; Anaheim 5, Milwaukee 4; Chicago White Sox 10, Oakland 4; Baltimore 8, Seattle 7.

# Ukraine trounce Israel XV 51-15

By JOEL GORDIN

The national rugby team were trounced 51-15 at the weekend by Ukraine in their fourth and final game of the first preliminary round of Rugby World Cup 1999.

The defeat, in the Ukraine port city of Odessa, puts paid to Israel's hopes of advancing to the next qualification round.

The game was evenly matched in the first 30 minutes, the period during which Israel scored all its points — tries by Tzahi Tzfadia and Dean DuPlessis and a conversion and a penalty by DuPlessis. But with ten minutes left in the first period, the home team's heavier forwards over-

powered Israel and Ukraine stormed ahead to lead 27-15 at half time. They retained the initiative in the second period and Israel did not present a further threat.

Ukraine are, in fact, the winners of the five-team pool A of the European zone and will be the only team to go forward to the next round.

Israel were second in the pool having beaten Austria (15-3), drawn with Switzerland (9-9) and lost to Yugoslavia (10-7). As a result Israel will be given a higher rating for the next world cup.

The national squad will now start training for the 15th Maccabiah to be held in July.

## SCOREBOARD

**TENNIS** — Pete Sampras led to retire from his opening match of the World Team Cup against Australia's Mark Philippoussis in Düsseldorf yesterday after straining a left thigh muscle.

World number one Sampras was leading 6-4, 4-6, 1-0 when he began to experience pain in the same leg that hampered him at the Italian Open in Rome.

# Spurs win NBA draft lottery; Celtics pick third and sixth

SECAUCUS, NJ (Reuters) — The San Antonio Spurs were rewarded for the worst season in franchise history when they bucked tremendous odds in favor of the Boston Celtics and on Sunday won the first pick in the NBA draft lottery.

The Spurs now are in position, when the NBA draft is held on June 25, to pair Robinson with Wake Forest center Tim Duncan, the consensus top player available.

Decimated by injuries, specifically to All-Star center David Robinson, the Spurs finished 20-62, the third-worst record in the

league.

Duncan would provide immediate help to the Spurs, who have been looking for a power forward to team with Robinson since trading Dennis Rodman in 1995.

The Celtics (15-67) were favored to win the lottery, holding their own slot and that of the Dallas Mavericks. But despite owning 264 of 1,000 possible combinations, their name did not come up until the drawing for the third pick.

The Philadelphia 76ers (22-60), who selected Rookie of the Year Allen Iverson with the top overall

pick last year, will pick second.

The Vancouver Grizzlies (14-68) will pick fourth, followed by the Denver Nuggets (21-61) and the Celtics again.

Sunday's bad luck continued a remarkable string for the Celtics, who have never made the top overall pick. They had it in 1980, but dealt it to the Golden State Warriors in a trade.

The New Jersey Nets will pick seventh, followed by the Golden State Warriors, Toronto Raptors, Milwaukee Bucks, Sacramento Kings, Indiana Pacers and Cleveland Cavaliers.

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# Ramat Gan bowlers win Wingate Fives

By HEATHER CHAIT

Ramat Gan came out trumps in the Wingate Fives tournament, adding the win to their Premier Division League title.

The squad of George Kaminsky, Maximio Wagensberg, Rami Oron, Alok Harpur, Avi Rakiya, Yair Gavisa and Alfredo Liderman won by a single point over Kfar Hamaccabiah, Ramat Gan won the trips and the fours with the pairs going to the Kfar's Chaim Miller and Michael Stange.

Colin Silberstein of Ra'anana won the singles trophy after he beat Miller in the final round, winning six of his seven games.

The final log positions were Ramat Gan (41), Kfar (40), Ra'anana (37), Haifa (28), Ramat Hasharon (26), Sayon (23), Netanya (19), Jerusalem (10).

**Haifa race:** Runners have a choice of three distances in today's Sixth Haifa Race which starts at 5.45 p.m. There is the 2,500 meter run, from Gan Ha'em to Dan Carmel Hotel for schoolchildren, the 3,000m along Sderot Hanassi and Moriah Road for 13-17 year olds and the challenging, uphill 8,000m race from Gan Ha'em via the center of Abuza to the Reali School. The first male and female runners home will receive NIS2,500.

**Golf:** The Friday competition at Caesarea golf club was a pairs medal round. Finishing first with 142 strokes were Bruce Waters and Michael Kaufman. At one under par 145 were Modi Kidon and Meshi Zvika while third and on par were Yoram Arbel and Moshe Shapira. Mimi and

Michael Bannister, husband-and-wife combination, had 147 and the last two places were filled by Yitzhak Danziger and Eli Hasson on 150 and Mani Geri and Lennie Landes on 151.

**Mehozada:** Over 4000 sportspeople from 120 of Jerusalem's workplaces have invaded Eilat today for the Mehozada, the sports competition for workers. Among the events are soccer, basketball, volleyball and tennis with entrants from government departments, the Knesset, municipality and the media.

There will even be some real-life sports personalities from the past such as Haim Hadad, Moti Weizman, Uri Malmullian and David Yishai. Behind the fun, the event is dedicated to Miriam Tzafri, a victim of the Bus 405 tragedy in 1989.

**Athletics:** Itai Margalit just didn't stop flying after his plane landed here from Kansas City. One hour after arrival, he competed and won the high jump event at an invitation competition at Hadar Yosef. Margalit's result, 2.24 meters, left national champion Constantin Matusevich in second place with 2.20m.

Winning the 10,000m race were Ayla Setegn (29:42.52) and Ella Krimus (35:57.07).

**Sailing:** The bronze medalist from Ukraine, will compete in the world championships to be held in Tel Aviv at the end of August.

**Pacholack:** 32, is married to a Jewish businessman whose parents live in Ramat Gan. Meanwhile the national sailing team left this week for the Netherlands to enter an international competition

which begins tomorrow. The team is Anat Fabrikant and Shani Kedmi, Eli Zuckerman and Saar Behr and Ze'ev Kalach and David Schwartz.

**Sailing in the mistral category** are Gal Friedman, Amit Inbar, Amir Levinson, Michal Hein and Sivan Yosef.

**Cricket:** Lions Lod breezed through against Yeruham in the first division. Loti (J. Masli 46, Y. Nagavkar 43) scored 195 for 8 against Yeruham's 29 off 19 overs.

Young Ashdod made 199 for 9 to beat Netanya's 183.

In the second division, Petah Tikva scored 187 for 9 while Dimona C managed just 111 in reply. Dimona A, however, scored 160 for 3 to beat Beersheba B who were left with 156.

In this week's first division fixtures, Ashdod A will host Neveh Yonatan and Beersheba A will host Tel Aviv, while in the second division Ramle and Lod will play at Hadar Yosef and Eleven Stars will travel to Kiryat Gat.

**Maccabiah moments:** If nothing else, the Maccabiah this year will not be disparagingly called "The Jewish Olympics." Why? Because for the first time non-Jews have been invited, some to compete as guests. Topping the list of debutants is recently retired tennis beauty Gabriella Sabatini. Pele has also confirmed his appearance and writing in the wings are Diego Maradona, Franz Beckenbauer and Johan Cruyff.

**Britain to ban tobacco sports sponsorship**

HARROGATE (AP) — Prime Minister Tony Blair's new Labor government announced yesterday it would ban cigarette advertising and bar the sponsorship of sports events by tobacco companies.

The move could have a huge effect on motor racing teams and some golf events.

"We recognize that some sports are heavily dependent on tobacco sponsorship," Health Secretary Frank Dobson said, describing the draft legislation.

"We don't want to harm these sports but they must recognize that by helping promote the sales of tobacco they are harming the health of many of their own sports spectators and viewers." The government would give the sports involved time to reduce their dependency on tobacco and find other sponsors, Dobson told the annual congress of the Royal College of Nursing in Harrogate, northern England.

"I hope that during this process we will be spared the claims by the tobacco industry that their advertising is not designed to promote sales," Dobson said. "The fact is that the tobacco industry, unique amongst all industries, kills around 120,000 of its own customers every year."

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# Becker's French Open hopes ruined by injury

PARIS (Reuters) — Boris Becker's hopes of winning the French Open, the only Grand Slam crown still eluding him, were dashed yesterday when he had to pull out of the championships.

Organizers announced the 29-year-old German had withdrawn through injury from the biggest clay-court tournament in the world, starting next Monday.

They did not give details, but Becker's season has been hampered by a lingering wrist injury which allowed him to play in only two tournaments in the past three months, in Monte Carlo and Hamburg.

Three times a semifinalist in Paris, in 1987, 1989 and 1991, Becker has had to pull out of the French Open on three previous occasions — 1992, 1994 and last year.

In his 13 years on the circuit, Becker has never won a clay-court tournament.

He will be replaced in the men's draw by Italian Andrea Gaudenzi.

Becker, ranked 12th in the world at present, was the second seed to pull out of the French Open, after American Todd Martin last week.

Their withdrawals meant Britain's Tim Henman and Swiss Marc Rosset, ranked 17th and 18th in the world respectively, would be seeded.

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# NEWS

in brief

## ULA intensifies protest

The Union of Local Authorities protest action ended its sixth day yesterday, with local residents attempting to block major junctions around the country, including at Ben-Gurion Airport. The action caused traffic jams, but police managed to keep the roads open and make no arrests.

"This government's coldheartedness has forced the heads of local authorities to take unusually drastic measures," ULA head Adi Eldar said.

About 50 local authority heads arrived at the office of Finance Minister Dan Meridor in Jerusalem, and blocked the entrance. After an hour, police were called in to enable Meridor to leave his office. Police scuffled with the local leaders.

In the afternoon, the local leaders sat down in the road leading to the Prime Minister's Office. The ULA said its leaders were "violently removed from the road" by police and border policemen, and some had to be treated by a Magen David Adom ambulance called to the scene.

Eldar said the local authorities would continue their strike, because the government had made no effort in the past six days to solve the debt problem of the local authorities. *lim*

## Nurses strike postponed

A nationwide strike of 2,000 public health nurses that was due to begin today has been postponed until further notice.

The union yesterday said it changed its plans because of "signs of a positive arrangement" in which the state would cover all the costs of family health (*tipat halav*) centers, except for providing the buildings that house them and their maintenance.

Public health nurses work in 500 centers, providing immunizations and early diagnosis of disabilities in infants, supervising pregnancies, monitoring infectious disease in their area, and providing advice to the elderly. *Judy Siegel*

## Jerusalem school strike called off

A threatened strike of Jerusalem schools scheduled for tomorrow was called off yesterday after a meeting between a representative of the Prime Minister's Office and members of the Jerusalem district parents association. The Jerusalem Municipality also undertook the financing of security guards for the rest of the current school year.

It was agreed that the Prime Minister's Office would ask the head of the unit for fighting terrorism and the Internal Security Ministry to look into the issue of security at Jerusalem schools, and to study the overall guarding of educational facilities in general and Jerusalem in particular for the coming school year. *lim*

## Internet site shows defense wares

The Defense Ministry, the Export Institute, and the defense industries have opened an Internet site displaying their wares at the 47th Paris air show, which is taking place until the end of this week.

Nineteen Israeli civilian and military companies are represented at the show in several pavilions, compared to only 16 at the last show in 1995. Their products are presented on the site, which appears in English and French. The location is <http://www.airshow.mod.gov.il>. *Judy Siegel*



**17th Golani Run**  
Golani Brigade soldiers keep up the pace Sunday on their annual Mt. Hermon to Ellat run, which is to end Thursday. (IDF Spokesman)

# Zissman blasts Hammer

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman yesterday criticized Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's flip-flop on the matriculation exams, and called for the exam in Bible to always be mandatory.

"I heard criticism of the lottery system from the minister all year, but he had a whole year to decide on the matter, and didn't have to do so at the last moment and secretly," Zissman said.

"To me, Bible is what has set the Jewish people apart over the generations, and it should be removed from the lottery, with this system continued regarding the other subjects."

Zissman expressed his satisfaction

over Hammer's agreeing to hold the lottery this year in the end, and said in September the ministry would bring the committee its proposal for a method of choosing the matriculation exam subjects next year.

"I want to commend the pupils, who are part of our democratic system and know how to stand up for their rights," Zissman said.

MK Dalia Itzik (Labor) sharply criticized Hammer, saying: "How will the education minister, the father of all educators, look the pupils in the eyes while he tells bald-faced lies on the one hand and talks about ethics on the other. The minister did something terrible and should resign."

"I advise the minister and the director-general to say that some-

thing was done here without thinking, and must be reconsidered," said MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud). "The lottery is a good system and should continue."

Meretz MK Naomi Chazan said: "Not only did the minister mislead, cheat and lie to the pupils, but so did the whole educational system which had a hand in this... You lied and didn't even ask forgiveness."

"The impression was created that public pressure and the pupils are what caused the minister to change his mind, and this is not good from an educational standpoint," Likud MK Ze'ev Bolin said.

MK Shmuel Halpern (United Torah Judaism) put a different spin on his criticism, saying: "What was behind the whole storm was the fact that there are those who are afraid to

be tested in Bible."

Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell, appearing before the committee, said: "The minister said at the beginning of the year that he agreed to the idea of only four required exams, but that he was not happy with the lottery system."

"For this reason, he thought that having a committee of experts was a better system. The result regarding the selection of tests as regards the pupils was the same. The whole matter regards only the manner the tests were chosen this year. For next year, we will reconsider how to make things easier on the pupils. We must also remember that the matriculation certificate is a tool, and it has become the end all and that is too bad."

**WEATHER** Golani 16-26

Hatifa 16-26	Tiberias 17-23
Afula 15-21	Samartha 18-23
Tel Aviv 17-25	Jerusalem 15-25
BeerSheva 16-20	Dead Sea 21-35
Ellat 20-30	

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Drop in temperatures.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

	LOW	HIGH		
	C	F	C	
Amsterdam	18	61	68	partly cloudy
Berlin	18	61	70	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	64	71	rain
Chengde	12	54	62	cloudy
Chicago	12	54	77	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	50	72	rain
Frankfurt	10	50	72	rain
Geneva	12	54	77	clear
Helsinki	12	54	77	clear
Hong Kong	28	82	91	cloudy
Jakarta	24	75	87	partly cloudy
London	18	64	70	partly cloudy
Los Angeles	18	64	76	cloudy
Madrid	10	50	71	rain
Moscow	10	50	81	partly cloudy
Montreal	10	50	81	partly cloudy
Moscow	10	50	81	partly cloudy
New York	11	52	86	partly cloudy
Paris	11	52	86	partly cloudy
Rome	12	54	87	partly cloudy
Sydney	14	57	85	rain
Tokyo	18	64	82	rain
Toronto	06	43	10	rain

**Winning cards**

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the seven of spades, 10 of hearts, nine of diamonds and eight of clubs. The results of the second draw were the 10 of spades, jack of hearts, queen of diamonds and king of clubs.

## Increase shown in new cases of multiple sclerosis

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 15 percent increase in the number of new multiple sclerosis cases has been reported during the past two years, largely due to the relatively high incidence of the neurological disorder among immigrants from the CIS.

Jeanine Weisberg, director of the Israel Multiple Sclerosis Society, reported Sunday that there are 5,000 MS patients in Israel today, and 1,500 of them are society members.

Dr. Roni Milo, an Assaf Harofeh Hospital neurologist who runs its MS service, said that ethnic and geographical differences account for variations in the incidence of the disease, which causes the immune system to attack the myelin sheath on the nerves and can cause paralysis, blindness, and other disabilities. The chronic disease most often hits women and is first diagnosed in people 20 to 40.

Milo said that although a comprehensive epidemiological study has not yet been completed, doctors who treat MS patients believe the significant increase is due to the increasing frequency of MS around the world, and the fact that some 700,000 immigrants have arrived from the former Soviet Union in recent years. The farther one lives from the equator, the higher the incidence of the disease.

The society's annual conference will take place at Ichilov Hospital in Friday. Participants will hear lectures on new and future treatments, relaxation therapies, and support techniques for families. The conference is being supported by Schering-Plough, which markets Betaferon, one of the drugs given to MS patients.

# Sheba researchers find gene linked to breast, ovarian cancers

By JUDY SIEGEL

The first gene mutation causing ovarian and breast cancer to be discovered solely in Israel has been announced by researchers at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

The new mutation was found to appear in Jewish women originating in Iran and Afghanistan. Women from these communities have been considered at low risk to develop these diseases, compared to the general population.

Epidemiological studies have shown that of 2,200 new cases of breast cancer and 360 of ovarian cancer in this country each year, three-quarters are in women of Ashkenazi origin and a quarter in women of Sephardi origin. But in families of Iranian and Afghan origin, where the diseases have struck several women, the mutation has been found in all the women examined so far.

Dr. Eitan Friedmann, director of the oncogenetics unit at the Tel Hashomer hospital, said that now the mutation has been discovered, women of these

origins who have had cases of breast or ovarian cancer in their families should come and be tested. These found to bear the mutation should undergo periodic examinations by their doctors to detect the disease early, if it does appear.

Friedmann said the hospital had developed a technique that allows the accurate diagnosis of the mutation without the use of radioactive materials. Some of the women found to have the mutation and who had finished giving birth had their ovaries removed as a preventive measure.

# Matza appeals to PM to save health system

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, enraged over Treasury efforts to impede agreement on a package deal to save the health system, yesterday handed over responsibility for the issue to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Matza's step followed the breakdown in negotiations between the two ministries. He specifically accused David Milgrom, the Treasury's budget chief, of "uncompromising and hard-headed positions." The Treasury has delayed payments to make up the deficit in health tax collections, Matza claimed, and taken other measures to ensure that the national health insurance system fails.

In a letter to the premier, Matza said that months of negotiations with the Treasury have been wasted, as the Finance Ministry has "knowingly and with intent, brought about a deep crisis and the collapse of the health system, which will force us in the end to nationalize the health funds or to cancel the National Health Insurance Law" as an egalitarian system.

Two months ago, Matza presented the problems - including the NIS 1.5 billion deficit in the health

system and the failure to update the basket of health services due to all residents - before Netanyahu, who asked him to formulate an agreement with the premier's representatives. But the Treasury has vetoed all proposals, Matza said, causing two months to be wasted, "and now we have lost 1997."

"The health system is deteriorating," Matza warned Sunday's meeting of the National Health Council. He noted that the intermediate period - during which an expanded basket of services was to be presented as an amendment to the National Health Insurance Law - is due to end in December.

The Treasury stands firmly against the Health Ministry's efforts to expand the basket of services, he added, and even wants to shrink the basket. "The health system is at a crossroads," he said, "and we cannot ignore it."

Matza is expected to demand the restoration of the employers' parallel tax, which the Treasury abolished, even though it provided considerable funds for health services.

In response, the Treasury spokesman said it "rejects all the Health Ministry's claims, and that to our sorrow, most of the data it gave are inaccurate and tendentious."

# 13 remanded in 'licenses for money' scheme

By DAVID RUDGE

Thirteen driving examiners were remanded for periods of four to eight days by Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday, on suspicion of being involved in an alleged "licenses for money" corruption ring.

The court, however, released four driving instructors on bail and placed them under house arrest.

The instructors and examiners

were arrested on Sunday, in connection with ongoing police inquiries into the alleged bribery case.

All the suspects proclaimed their innocence during the remand hearing. Some tried to hide their faces from television cameras and photographers as they were led into the court.

Judge Uri Kutai differentiated between the examiners, suspected of accepting bribes, and the instructors, who allegedly gave them.

He said that the allegations were very serious and that there is strong prima facie evidence against the examiners, who it appears had demanded money, which the instructors had perhaps been forced to pay.

Senior police officers in the northern region and the police would appeal the decision regarding the instructors. The appeal was submitted yesterday afternoon, with the

police maintaining that the allegations against the instructors are equally serious as those against the examiners. A ruling is expected today.

In the meantime, inquiries into the affair are continuing and police are expected to bring in dozens more driving instructors for questioning.

According to the allegations, the examiners took bribes from instructors to pass their students in both theory and practical driving tests.

Police said that some motorists who had received their driver's licenses in this fashion had subsequently been involved in serious accidents.

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**Mobile eye-care clinic opens in the Negev**

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Elderly Ethiopian immigrants in need of eye care will soon be able to get it from the Smetana and Alexander Katz Negev Project Vision Mobile Eye Clinic, being dedicated today at BeerSheva's Yud Alef Community Center. The clinic is expected to meet the eye care needs of Negev residents who lack access to such services. It is opening with the participation of Ben-Gurion University and Kupat Holim Clalit, and is designed to provide outreach and social services.

The clinic is being established with the help of Project Vision, a US-based organization dedicated to eye care services around the world, particularly in Israel. Dr. Steven Kutner and Kevin King, both from Project Vision, are to attend today's dedication.

